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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years ▼

Gay leaders blast United's decision to follow LA law, but not SF's

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's gay elected officials and activists are appalled by what they say is a double standard on the part of United Airlines, which announced last Monday, January 11 that it would comply with the city of Los Angeles' living wage ordinance while at the same time continuing to fight San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance.

The ongoing legal fight to get United to comply with some provisions of the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance continues this Friday, January 22, when both sides meet again before U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken in federal court in Oakland. Last April, Wilken ruled that airlines have to comply with part of the city's law requiring companies that do business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employee spouses.

Last week, United agreed to comply with Los Angeles' local living wage ordinance, ending a two-year standoff over the pay of its workers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). United spokesman Matt Triaca said the move made "good business sense," and was a "reasonable" local ordinance. To secure a new lease at LAX, United agreed to comply with the law.

At a hastily called news conference outside City Hall Wednesday, January 13, Supervisors Leslie Katz, Tom Ammiano, Mark Leno and members of Equal Benefits Advocates called on the giant passenger airline to demon-

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Scouting For All anniversary rally Saturday in Union Square

by Mark Norby

Scouting For All will commemorate its first anniversary as a nonprofit organization at a rally in San Francisco's Union Square this Saturday, January 23 from noon to 2 p.m. Local and national AIDS activists, queer youth activists, and members from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will speak in support of Scouting For All and in favor of ending policies of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to exclude gays.

Scouting For All was started by the efforts of 12-year-old Steven Cozza of Petaluma, in Sonoma County. A Scout from the age of 7, Cozza is currently a Life Scout and has submitted his application for Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the BSA.

"The first year anniversary," he says, "is a powerful statement from Scouting For All to the BSA that we are for real, and are not going away until its disgraceful and harmful policy of discrimination against gay youth and adults is rescinded."

Speakers at the event include Tom Ammiano, president of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Mark Leno; the Reverend Jim Mitulski of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco; AIDS activist Sister Roma; and a host of representatives from human rights organizations across Northern California. Cozza also will speak Saturday,



Rick Gerhardt

As part of his campaign to change the Boy Scouts, Scouting For All founder Steven Cozza collected signatures on Castro Street. He hopes to get a million signatures on his petition.

telling his own story while gathering signatures for the petition drive to end discrimination in the BSA.

"William Powell founded the Scouts in 1907 for all youth, not some youth," adds Steven. "The rally will show our commit-

ment and our numbers, because numbers can sometimes speak louder than words." ▼

For more information on Scouting for All, call (707) 778-0564.

Are Birch's days numbered at HRC?

by Paul Harris

Last year must rank as the most difficult in Elizabeth Birch's tenure as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), one in which few things seemed to go right. The new year has begun with rumors that she privately offered her resignation to the board in October, and with at least one prominent activist demanding she resign from her \$100,000+ a year post.

What went wrong?

Birch assumed the Human Rights Campaign Fund's leadership position in the spring of 1995 to bring the organization up to date. She came to the organization from corporate America where she had worked as a lawyer for Apple Computer. She was seen as savvy, intelligent, with-it, and above all a good communicator. Under her direction the organization doubled membership, modified its name (losing "Fund" from its title), adopted an eye-catching easily recognizable logo, and put its finances on surer footing. Moreover, President Bill Clinton accepted an invitation to speak at a fundraising dinner in Washington, D.C. (the first U.S. president ever to attend an HRC function), and Birch's pleasant earnest face seemed to crop up regularly both on TV and in the print media.

It all seemed to start to fall apart with her decision to go in with Metropolitan Community Church founder the Reverend Troy Perry, at the urging of entertainment pro-



HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch

cism that he decided to bring his Metropolitan Community Church along without consulting ordinary members of the church.

When the announcement was made, all hell broke loose. Although there seemed to be some back-tracking for a while, Birch ultimately announced HRC would go ahead with the march no matter what. For someone whose touted strength was her ability to communicate, it seemed to be a major shot in the foot. To be fair, later in the year she candidly admitted that mistakes had been made in both the way the decision was reached and how it was presented. But if she believed the controversy would die away, she was to be proven wrong. It continued, and only seemed to intensify.

D'Am shame

As if that weren't bad enough in the late summer and early fall, with the upcoming congressional midterm elections, HRC floated a trial balloon indicating that it might support the Republican Senator from New York, Alfonse D'Amato, over his Democratic opponent Chuck Schumer. (The Democrat ended up winning with a 10 percent majority.) Again, gay activists were furious with the organization.

HRC attempted to defend itself by saying that it had a policy of supporting incumbents who had shown themselves to be supportive of the gay movement. While D'Amato had in recent years shown himself to be far more open-minded on gay issues than

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Harry Britt lauded on appointment anniversary

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors honored former Supervisor Harry Britt Tuesday, January 19 on the 20th anniversary of his being named to the city's legislative body. Britt, who was first appointed in 1979 following the November 1978 assassination of Harvey Milk, served on the board for 14 years, and in 1989 became the first openly gay man to be board president.

Current board President Tom Ammiano, the second gay man to serve in that capacity, had words of praise for the former supervisor. "I owe a lot to Harry Britt," Ammiano said. "He was the one who carried the torch. Harry was always a reluctant hero and he did it so well."

Supervisor Mark Leno, who presented Britt with a proclamation declaring Tuesday as Harry Britt Day in the city, also lauded the honoree. "Harry's known for many things," Leno said, including "his progressive issues and he was an accomplished coalition builder." Britt's accomplishments include establishing oversight for the San Francisco Police Department, through the Office of Citi-

zen Complaints.

Many gay leaders and people who worked with Britt attended a reception in his honor before the board meeting. Mayor Willie Brown said at the reception that Britt was a pioneer. "Your record speaks for itself," he said.

Supervisor Sue Bierman also thanked Britt for his service. "It was a terrible time when he came in, a sad time," said Bierman. "He brought his philosophical self to the board, and he was funny, with mostly gentle humor."

Britt, who worked with Milk, recalled he was apprehensive when the late Pat Jackson persuaded him to fill the slain supervisor's seat on the board. When he gave his inauguration speech 20 years ago, Britt said he upset "certain editorial boards" when he remarked that "all decisions should be made by women." Tuesday he said that if he had to do it all over again, he'd amend that statement to include gay men, but that he still believes what he said. "I was never very



Former Supervisor Harry Britt

Rick Gerhardt

good at dealing with powerful straight men," said Britt. "There has to be a different kind of power than that which so dominates American politics, and that power comes out of marginal cultures."

Since Britt's tenure on the board, many gay men and lesbians have been appointed or elected to seats, a fact that pleases him. "I am especially proud we still have strong queer representation on the board," he said, as the city's three gay supervisors looked on. ▼

CAPE meeting in SF Mon.

by Cynthia Laird

The new statewide queer rights group California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) will hold a meeting in San Francisco this Monday, January 25 at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. Interested people are welcome to attend as discussion and planning get under way for the Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community's participation in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Equality Begins at Home" rally in Sacramento Sunday, March 21.

Robert Haaland, CAPE's interim co-chair, told the Bay Area Reporter that the other part of the meeting will focus on various bills the new organization is either sponsoring or supporting in the California Legislature. Among those are several pieces of legislation by the state's two openly lesbian Assemblywomen, Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica).

With respect to Equality Begins at Home, Haaland said CAPE's interim leadership team is interested in getting public comments on what the organization should plan for the rally. "We'd like input from the community on what they'd like to see at Equality Begins at Home and involve them in the planning process," said Haaland.

CAPE also plans to hold a statewide meeting in Sacramento on Saturday, March 20 and will help organize the annual Queer Youth Lobby Day set for Monday, March 22. CAPE bills itself as the new statewide queer rights lobby, advocacy, and education group dedicated to community organizing at the local level.

CAPE was formed last year in response to the closing of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE). CAPE hopes to attract more grassroots mem-

bers and has lower membership fees than the LIFE Lobby had; the group is also focusing exclusively on LGBT human rights issues, as opposed to the LIFE Lobby that also dealt with HIV/AIDS measures. Individual CAPE memberships are \$25; low income, \$10; and organizational memberships begin at \$200. Organizers said memberships are encouraged in order to support the new group.

Cheryl Deane, executive director of All Our Families Coalition, said her group will participate at the CAPE meeting and noted the Equality Begins at Home rally is one of the events planned for the Northern California Family Awareness Week in Sacramento.

"We are especially excited about working with CAPE as All Our Families Coalition has taken a lead in grassroots community education and organizing against the Knight initiative (California Defense of Marriage Act) in Northern California," said Deane.

Deane is part of a 10-member steering committee that formed in Los Angeles on January 15 to help Californians become aware of the homophobic and anti-family content of the initiative, that is worded as a "defense" of traditional marriage but in reality attacks lesbian and gay families, Deane said.

Among proposed state legislation to be discussed at the CAPE meeting are domestic partner bills by Migden and state Senator Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles), and Kuehl's "Dignity for all Students" bill that CAPE members voted to make their top priority at a statewide meeting last month.

Haaland said CAPE is sponsoring a bill that would add sexual orientation to the Fair Employment and Housing Act. ▼

The CAPE meeting starts at 7 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Owens and Wong to lead school boards

by Cynthia Laird

Two San Francisco school district boards are poised to have openly gay and lesbian members lead the bodies. Last Tuesday, January 12, Dr. Juanita Owens was elected president of the San Francisco Board of Education and on Thursday, January 28, Lawrence Wong will be named president of the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees.

For Owens, who campaigned as an open lesbian of color when she successfully ran for the school board in 1996, the ascension to board president was not unanimous and came on a 4 to 3 vote, with Eddie Chin, Dr. Dan Kelly, and Jill Wynn voting against the motion. Her rise to board president makes her the first out lesbian in the state to serve in such a capacity, she said.

Since being elected to the school board, Owens has created some important changes; she incorporated administrative policy changes regarding the domestic partners of district employees and the rights of transgender employees. She followed through on the queer youth resolution passed by the board prior to her election and ensured implementation of awareness trainings of queer youth issues for teachers and



Dr. Juanita Owens and Lawrence Wong

counselors.

Owens told the *Bay Area Reporter* she's honored to serve as president. "I'm also delighted in terms of being a role model and hope it's looked upon by queer youth," she said.

She is optimistic about the direction of the school board, which was marked by controversy last year over requiring reading lists and the privatization of some schools. "My style is one of inclusion," said Owens.

This spring, a mural of gay

and lesbian historical figures will be created at Mission High School, a project spearheaded by Owens. Additionally, one of her goals for the year is to hold a two-day conference this summer to discuss the issues of gay and lesbian students and to create mechanisms of change within the system.

Wong repeats as prez

Wong, who became the first openly gay Asian elected to public

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Photo: Steven Underhill

Berkeley student co-op opens GLBT house

by Cynthia Laird

The University Students' Cooperative Association (USCA), a student-owned, student-run organization offering affordable room and board for University of California Berkeley students, will celebrate the formal opening of its 20th house this Friday, January 22. In keeping with its tradition of theme houses supporting the diversity of university students, residents of the new house have voted to recognize the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students.

Residency at the new house is not exclusively for GLBT students; however, the house will make efforts to be understanding and supportive of the GLBT lifestyles, just as other houses have tailored their social programs to support such diverse needs as African-American culture, vegetarian dietary needs, and older students.

Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean, and Barbara Davis, UC's assistant vice chancellor, will be on hand to formally open the new house, and to express their appreciation for USCA's continuing effort to provide affordable student accommodations in the increasingly tight Berkeley housing market. USCA purchased the former Delta Sigma Phi fraternity at 2410 Waring Street and spent more than \$300,000 on improvements during the summer and fall. The 38 students - 19 men and 19 women - started moving in last week for the spring semester that started Tuesday, January 19. The ceremony includes tours of the refurbished house.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first GLBT-themed student cooperative on the West Coast," said George Proper, USCA general manager. "We have a long history of supporting ethnic diversity and the needs of minority students, going back to our roots in the Great Depression. We were one of the first to offer co-ed student housing of any type in the U.S."

Dean applauded USCA for its significant contribution to providing student housing. "Housing a large number of students in fa-



Rick Gerhardt

Happy campers: Residents of the new LGBT-themed cooperative house serving U.C. Berkeley students.

cilities which are student-managed is a daunting task," Dean stated. "The city of Berkeley greatly appreciates their efforts to provide affordable alternatives for those students who otherwise might not be able to attend UC."

66 years of success

In February 1933, 14 Cal students founded USCA. Inspired and sponsored by Harry Kingman, director of the YMCA, the students were able to persuade community member Annie Dickson to rent a boarding house where the students paid rent and did work, combining their resources to live cost effectively during the Great Depression.

The concept was so successful that the students built up capital working during the summer of 1933 to acquire an old fraternity house to house and feed 50 students, and by the summer of 1934 acquired a second fraternity house. By the end of 1934, the two houses incorporated as a non-profit co-op association and had succeeded to the point of being able to lease a 200-person apartment house for further expansion.

During World War II, USCA took over operation of the Japanese Students' Club when it could no longer afford to pay the rent, operating it as a student residence when citizens of Japanese ancestry were interned, and returning it to them after the war. In 1966, USCA opened the first co-ed student housing in the country, which is now commonplace. Since the 1970s, many individual co-op houses have adopted specific cultural or ethnic themes to provide synergistic support around that theme. The houses are not exclusive - anyone can apply and live there - but provide an opportunity for people with similar backgrounds or views to live in a supportive environment.

Today, approximately 1,250 students live in 17 room and board houses and three apartment complexes around the UC Berkeley campus, ranging in size from 17 to 259 occupants. ▼

The opening takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the house, 2410 Waring Street in Berkeley. To RSVP, call (510) 848-1936, or e-mail to kathryn@usca.org.

Oakland supports Cannabis Club in suit

by Liz Highleyman

On January 11, the city of Oakland filed a friend of the court brief in support of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative (CBC), which is appealing an October ruling that closed the club.

The Oakland CBC, which served over 2,000 members, closed its doors on October 25 under the orders of federal judge Charles Breyer. The judge held the club in contempt for continuing to provide medical cannabis after he had barred the club from doing so. The CBC appealed the ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where it is currently pending. Breyer's ruling was the outcome of a suit filed in January 1998 by the federal Department of Justice against the CBC and five other Northern California med-

ical marijuana buyers clubs.

The Oakland brief argues that under the U.S. constitution, federal law does not necessarily override state law. California voters legalized the medicinal use of cannabis on the state level when they passed Proposition 215 in November 1996. The ninth and tenth amendments to the constitution concern rights that are retained by the states. The brief contends that by approving the initiative, Californians "deemed the medical use of cannabis to be a fundamental liberty interest." The ninth amendment puts the burden on the federal government to show that it has a good reason for infringing upon such a right. The federal government does not recognize the validity of Proposition 215, and has continued to work to close medical marijuana clubs in the state. The brief was written pro bono for the city by Linda

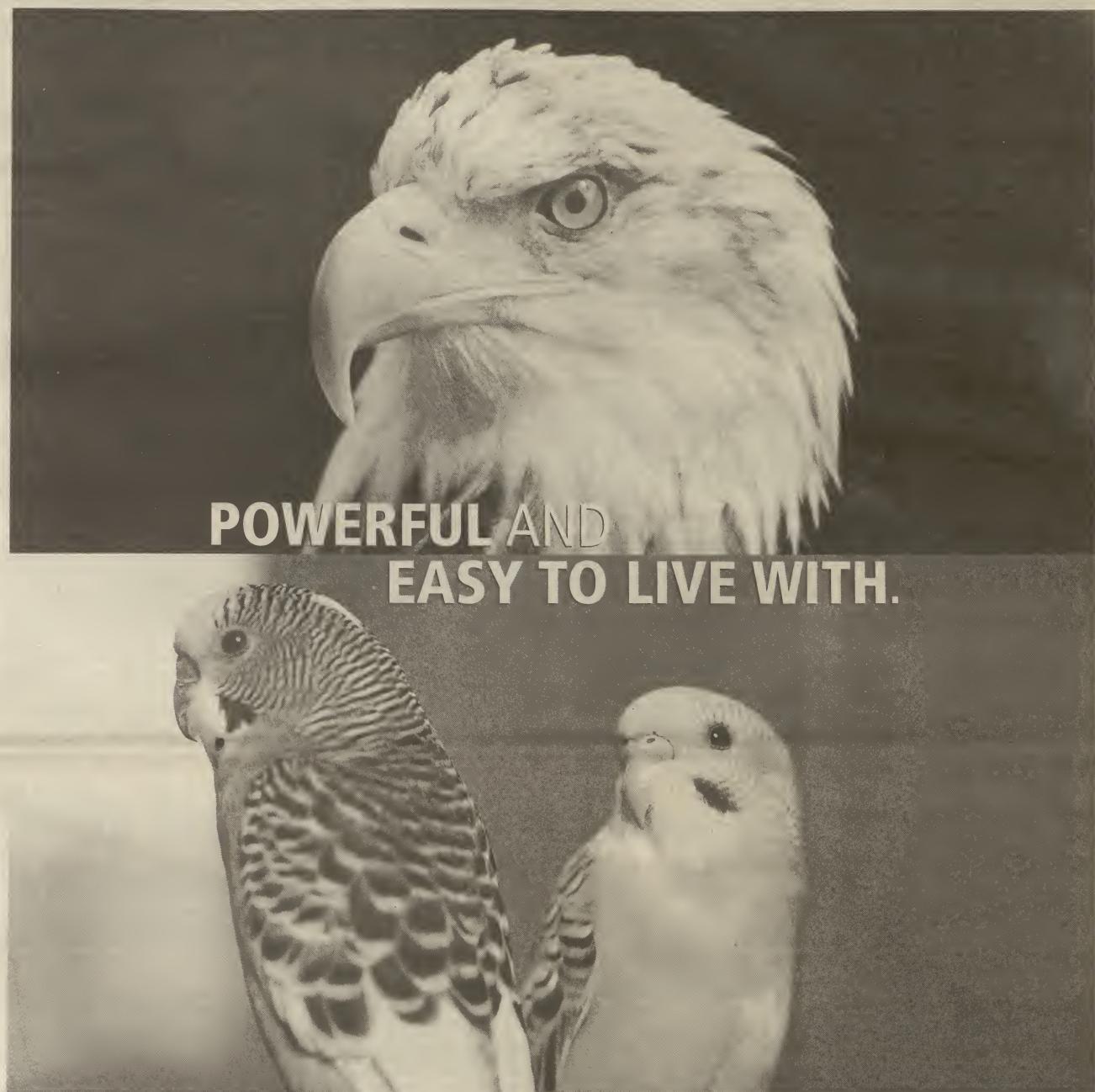
LeCraw and Peter Barton Hutt.

The CBC was allowed to re-open late last year on the condition that it cease distributing marijuana. The club currently offers information about cannabis cultivation and is selling merchandise to raise money for its legal defense.

The city of Oakland has consistently supported the CBC, including an attempt to depose club employees as city officials in order to shield them from prosecution. City leaders have expressed an interest in finding a way to distribute medicinal cannabis in a controlled manner to appropriate patients. According to CBC director Jeff Jones, the city has been "willing to do whatever is necessary to make sure that the citizens of Oakland who are suffering from AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, and other serious ailments have safe, legal access to their treatment of choice." ▼

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WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT IS USUALLY TAKEN TOGETHER WITH OTHER ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS SUCH AS RETROVIR® (zidovudine, AZT), EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC), OR ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF HIV IN THE BODY (VIRAL LOAD) AND RAISES CD4 COUNTS.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

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These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

• Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

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- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
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If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)
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• Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb		
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 1/4
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

State of disunion

The Republicans who came and stayed for President Clinton's State of the Union speech Tuesday were dour and unresponsive, as can be expected of politicians who are losing constituent support by the millisecond; those who didn't attend (or – more childish yet – who didn't stay) revealed their true agenda. No legislator with the interests of America at heart would leave in the middle of a State of the Union speech, unless the building went up in flames or they needed a hit of heroin. Not that we're implying any of those bolting conservatives were hooked on injectable narcotics. They're just addicted to power, which makes them twice as dangerous.

Barney Frank sized up the situation correctly, pointing out to the *Boston Globe* that the absence of Republicans didn't concern the average citizen. "Any member of Congress who thinks there's significant interest in where he parks his ass is delusional," the gay Massachusetts representative said.

After Clinton finished his speech, the Republicans had their opportunity for a "response." They needed someone as perspicuous as Frank, but instead turned to the Barbie and Ken of the right wing: Jennifer Dunn of Washington (whose Congressional voting record has earned a Christian Coalition rating of 77 percent and an AIDS Action rating of 18 percent) and Steve Largent of Oklahoma (100 percent Christian Coalition; zero AIDS Action). They failed to score any real points or convince anyone that the party is moving ahead, and, in fact, only added to the widespread impression that the GOP cannot get its collective head out of its collective ass. Largent, who is what the awful Representative Bob Barr would be after extensive surgery to make him appear more Aryan, did some sucking up to the Almighty that he envisions – "freedom reigns only as we act responsibly toward God," etc. – and then showed how the right wing twists a phrase until it's meaningless:

"Protecting individual liberty," he said,

"means protecting the unborn." In other words, protecting individual liberty means destroying any woman's liberty to determine what happens within her own body. Oh.

Largent also went on at length about how we must learn to forgive each other, ignoring how relentlessly unforgiving he and his GOP colleagues are toward anyone who refuses to march in lockstep with them or their pseudo-Christian puppets. Clinton is one example.

Bad as Largent and Dunn were, their comments don't even come close to the most outrageous utterances of American churchholic this week. Jerry Falwell gets that booby prize, for asserting as fact his notion that the Antichrist is alive – and Jewish. In saying that he hopes to take scrutiny away from evangelicals who have turned Christ's message on its head, which is where we'd look for an Antichrist if we were looking for one.



Wheezing reconstructionist Fred Phelps

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Why are we 'different' at United Airlines?

by Jeff Sheehy and Jeff Getty

United Airlines announced last week that, while it would continue fighting a San Francisco ordinance providing equal benefits to domestic partners of employees, it would agree to abide by a similar requirement to pay a livable wage to its Los Angeles-based employees. United has complied with L.A.'s law even though it claims that its "lawsuit against the city [San Francisco] is based on one essential point... that a local government cannot regulate a national industry."

Why is L.A.'s law okay and not San Francisco's? According to Matt Triaca, spokesman for United Airlines, "These ordinances affect different employee groups."

Huh? So when Los Angeles tells United to pay its predominantly straight workforce a decent wage, the airline says "yes sir!" – but when San Francisco tries to get the company to give lesbian or gay employees a few days paid leave to bury a dead partner, United cries foul. United objects to workers' rights when the workers are perceived to be lesbian or gay.

United can't have it both ways. Either it objects to cities protecting their citizens, or it agrees that all workers deserve to be treated with respect. It can't pick and choose who gets treated like a human being based on their sexual orientation. United stands exposed. This is not about cost. Paying workers a living wage will clearly cost the company much more than providing partners of employees equal benefits. The ongoing lawsuit is costing United more than granting equal benefits. This is not about having to submit to local laws. This is homophobia, pure and simple.

It is no accident that the other party to the lawsuit is Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice. United claims that they are not connected to Pat Robertson. See for yourself this Friday, January 22. Go to Judge Claudia Wilken's courtroom at Oakland's Federal Courthouse around 10 a.m. Look at who's sitting together at the plaintiff's table.

Ignoble history

For activists, there is vindication in United's apparent admission that it wasn't paying its Los Angeles employees a livable wage. This airline has a history of mistreating its workers. Pro family even in 1968, United was sued by flight attendants because getting married meant getting fired. Pregnancy was grounds for instant termination.

As the result of a lawsuit in 1976, United entered into a consent decree for the purpose of eliminating a pattern of discrimination in employment based on race, national origin, and sex. It took United 19 years, until 1995, before the consent decree was lifted. Still, in 1995, the airline was sued for grounding two HIV-positive pilots.

Equal Benefits Advocates, an organization founded by the originators of San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, has organized a national boycott of United Airlines. Endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the boycott follows three principles:

• Where a customer has a choice (and choice may be driven by price, use of frequent flyer points or availability of other flights), customers should try to fly another

airline.

• If no choice exists, Equal Benefits Advocates requests the customer take the opportunity to educate United and the public by wearing a button or sticker expressing their support of the boycott.

• If United complies with the equal benefits ordinance, the boycott is over.

You can help send a message to United.

Join in an informational picket at United ticket offices in San Francisco, San Jose, Berkeley, and Oakland on Thursday, February 4 at noon.

Get buttons and stickers to wear, if you must fly on United, at Main Line Gifts at 516 Castro at 18th Street.

Come to the next EBA meeting at 12 p.m. this Sunday, January 24, at 592 Castro Street, second floor, the ACT UP/Golden Gate office in San Francisco.

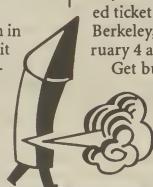
E-mail United's CEO, Gerald Greenwald, at ggreenwald@ual.com; let him know that lesbian and gay people have families too.

Become part of EBA's e-mail action network by e-mailing to js@equalbenefits.org. Visit our webpage, www.equalbenefits.org. Volunteer to help, either by e-mail or call 821-2217, ext. 2.

Finally, for our demonstration, we need several pieces of luggage. (Yes, it's going to be theatrical and eye-catching.) Drop off your old baggage to Equal Benefits Advocates at Healing Alternatives, located on the second floor of 505 Castro Street.

Hundreds of e-mails have flooded in. From all over the country, a multitude of voices are demanding that corporate America respect our families by giving equal benefits. Add yours. ▼

Guest Opinion



Guest Opinion

Equal Benefits Advocates

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In praise of the silent majority

Not a month passes by that you have to "editorialize" one of the letters sent to you by your readers. The last case was the one sent by Mr. Christopher Hall [MP x GS Mailstrom, January 7] in reference to Cynthia Laird's article on the already famous letter that Willie sent to Bill (I play golf with them and Vernon).

Perhaps you are right on pointing out the merits of Michael Petrelis' involvement with ACT UP and the HIV cause. But when you reply to Mr. Hall, you make yourself sound that if he would be attacking you personally. I do not think that is the purpose of this column.

There is silent majority of people in this city that are doing more than being detractors of the HIV cause. Some have left lucrative positions in the private sector, moved here to take care of dying friends, and have been exposed to prejudices to come and work with newly infected people. These people comes from all walks of life, some are gay (a good portion being lesbians) and some are straight (showing more dedication and sensitivity to the patient than many of us). Maybe they do not have access to the White House, but ironically through letters like Willie's, they are hearing from them.

In the January 13 edition of the *New York Times*, Larry Kramer states that AIDS is no longer considered a problem in this country. That gays are channeling their monies to other causes. Then he adds, "Aside from that, nobody wants to give any money to poor people, people of color and drug users." Probably these are the people that Mr. Hall was referring to, when he mentioned the recognition given by Willie Brown to the services provided at the HIV Clinic La Esperanza, at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center.

Jorge Rodríguez-Sanabria
San Francisco

[None. No comment.]

Tough love is the necessity

I wanted to send in a comment on your year-end editorial, "The Necessity is Building":

The national debt has not been paid off: it's still \$5.6 trillion (as of 12/1/98), and we're still paying over \$240 billion a year – 15 percent of the national budget – in interest. The only reason there appeared to be a budget surplus this year was borrowing against the so-called trust fund Social Security was supposed to be.

Housing is expensive in San Francisco because so many people move here. If fewer people wanted to live here, housing prices would drop. Encouraging people to move here whether or not they can afford it, whether or not they have the skills for the local job market, only hurts them. There are many areas of this country with no need for "living wage" legislation because they have more jobs than unskilled or semi-skilled workers to fill them. Bailing out people who "come to San Francisco where life is rumored to be easier" only hurts them. It rewards them for making a life-changing decision based on rumor rather than information, and destroys any incentive to make decisions that lead to independence. Real compassion would be getting them to where there are jobs for them and the cost of living is lower.

To harm these unfortunate in this way also requires hurting working people, and other people taking responsibility for themselves, by taxing them to subsidize people who come from elsewhere for streets paved with gold that don't exist. Many of the poor whom people say are San Francisco's poor are actually migrants. Check with County Social Services: new General Assistance applicants come in waves from other states, for money that must be taken in taxes from a population of under 750,000. A *Chronicle* article last week interviewed two candidates for taxpayer-funded housing: one had moved here from Phoenix, the other from Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia! That's not even within taxing range of the federal government. Give free or subsidized housing to these folks, and you'll never end poverty in San Francisco, because the word will be out that living – or at least housing – is indeed "easy" in San Francisco. There will be a never-ending stream of people moving here in search of that easy living, some thanks to those who advocate housing on demand for anyone from anywhere in the world.

This bad news is actually the "best case" scenario: it assumes government can make a difference. It doesn't. This country has spent over \$5 trillion over the past 30 years fighting poverty, without success. We've told people they have a right to certain things, and many have come to expect government (i.e., the rest of us) to provide for them regardless. Were we not taxed so heavily for a welfare state that doesn't work, we could fund private charities that give a boost to those willing to make positive changes in their lives.

You're asking for more money for something that hasn't worked, and that neither San Francisco nor the nation can afford. Rejecting that isn't mean – it's a refusal to pay to be codependent.

Beth Elliott
Oakland, CA

Leather or feathers, it's all bigotry

It was interesting to note that Mister Marcus would condemn The Bar on Castro Street for not serving men in leather, then in the very next paragraph, relishes the fact that the Loading Dock excludes anyone not in leather ("Wrapping up the old year," December 31). This strikes me as the epitome of hypocrisy. I thought one of the basic strengths of an enlightened gay community was inclusion, not exclusion.

Glenn Matthews
San Francisco

No 'bargain'

I read the ACT UP Writers Pool piece on HIV seroconversion in your December 31 issue ("Seroconversion of events"). It really hit home. Like some of the interviewees perhaps, part of my "plan" for staying HIV-negative was not having anal sex. I also followed the common advice about not taking cum in the mouth in oral sex.

Unfortunately, this "bargaining" and advice turned out worthless. Like others in that article I wound up with nasty sores in my mouth. I was amazed to turn up positive. In retrospect, another surprise was that the HIV test site didn't even ask how I (thought I) seroconverted. Maybe they were busy worrying about my emotional state, which as you might guess was a mess, but having since met several other guys who trace infection to oral sex I wonder who is checking this out or spreading the word.

Name withheld upon request
San Francisco

Be a lover, not an ambassador

From the latest White House releases, it seems that Willie the Weasel Clinton has nominated James Hormel again as ambassador to Luxembourg.

I wonder if there are any readers other than myself who feel that Hormel should not become any kind of ambassador due to his blatant hypocrisy as a gay man.

Mr. Hormel, from what I have been told, has a lover/partner/companion at home and in his testimony before the senate committee, crossed his heart and hoped to die if he ever brought his partner to Luxembourg to participate in any functions.

He promised to be a good gay and not do anything embarrassing or compromising. He wants that appointment so much that he is willing to put aside his partner for a government position. Isn't that rather hypocritical of somebody who claims to be an out gay and has donated money to numerous gay causes? It seems the poor fellow doesn't have any integrity.

There is no way I would put my partner aside to take a governmental appointment and this one is not worth very much unless one wants to continue being a social butterfly.

I would have more respect for Hormel if he would have argued and stood up to those senators and told them to go to hell reminding them of how much he has paid in taxes over the years and how much he has contributed to gay causes and other charities. If no straight candidate has to promise to put aside his wife or partner to take the job, why should Hormel so willingly give up his integrity. Life is too short to prostitute one's self and Mr. Hormel ought to take advantage of the wonderful gay opportunities in San Francisco instead of wimping out in Washington.

Andrew J. Betancourt
San Francisco

Family matters

I am incarcerated and am forwarding this letter in request for your assistance in locating a family member. My uncle, Bernard Roberts, relocated from Atlanta, Georgia to San Francisco in 1996, seeking a better employment opportunity as a computer consultant. My last communication with him was in 1996, with him informing me of the illness (AIDS) of his friend David, and of the new home that he was about to move into. I have had no contact with him since then.

My need for help is paramount, and urgent, in locating Bernard because he is the only family member I have at this time to turn to for help.

At this time I am being reviewed and considered by the State Board of Pardon and Parole, for a parole release. I am in dire need of a Residential and Reference Plan from my uncle before a decision is rendered in my case. God knows I need to reach out to my uncle. I hope he or someone who knows him will read this letter. He can reach me at Telfair State Prison, 110213, c-2, Post Office Box 549, Helena, Georgia 31037.

Vincent Duvahn Roberts
Helena, Georgia

Readers can reach us at 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Keep letters short, signed, and original.

POLITICS

Feinstein, Boxer, impeachment

by Wayne Friday

Whether the U.S. Senate votes to convict or acquit President Bill Clinton rests in large part, according to reports out of Washington, on the decision of eight particular Democratic senators. One of the eight that those closely watching the impeachment trial in the Senate this week is California's senior senator, Dianne Feinstein. (The others thought to be vulnerable to a vote against Clinton and thereby for conviction are West Virginia's Robert Byrd, New York's Daniel Moynihan, Connecticut's Joseph Lieberman, Nebraska's Robert Kerrey, Florida's Bob Graham, Virginia's Charles Robb, and Georgia's Max Cleland.)

Feinstein, one of the more powerful women in the federal government—and still thought to be a leading vice presidential possibility on an Al Gore-for-president ticket next year—is said to be among the most attentive members of the ongoing trial: she sits hour after hour, taking notes and paying particularly close attention to those Republicans making the case last week against the president.

The former San Francisco mayor, who was once close personal friend of the president, told intimates she had been "shattered" by his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and his decision to repeatedly lie about it; he personally assured her early last year that the charges of his having sex with the young White House intern were false. Feinstein has told close friends several times that she truly "felt betrayed by the president's behavior, but more so by his continued deception."

Since the Constitution requires a two-thirds vote, or 67 senators, to remove a president from office, at least a dozen Democrats would have to join the Senate's 55 Republicans. That's considered a long shot at the moment, and so far none of the above-mentioned eight senators has signaled an inclination to vote for Clinton's conviction, meaning that both Republicans and Democrats still expect the trial to end in acquittal. However, if Clinton's case ever starts to fall apart after the calling of witnesses (assuming they will be called), his supporters do worry that if any Democratic were to vote against the president, others might soon follow.

Feinstein told reporters early this week that she will weigh popular opinion and "other considerations" in determining whether Clinton should be removed from office. Asked specifically about what threshold would warrant Clinton's ouster, she said, "The higher the level, the better—this is about the possible removal of the president of the United States."

Senator Barbara Boxer also told reporters this week she thinks senators should possess an "expansive" view of what constitutes removal from office. Boxer aides believe she is "leaning heavily" in the direction of voting against conviction, while those close to



Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein

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Beyond the dream: remember the mosaic

by Nancy Boutilier

Every year, tears stream down my cheeks as news programs flash the famous clip of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaiming his wish for the future: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

It's downright un-American not to feel one with King when he calls for the day that "this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal.'"

We are presented with a comforting portrait of King — too comforting if you ask me, sanitized and safe from many of his messages. Remembered for his dream rather than for his resistance, King is packaged so smoothly and with so little room for the radical nature of his teachings that he is likely to show up any day now on the side of a Muni bus, fully appropriated, for the sake of selling blue jeans or software. I have a nightmare, that one day King and Har-

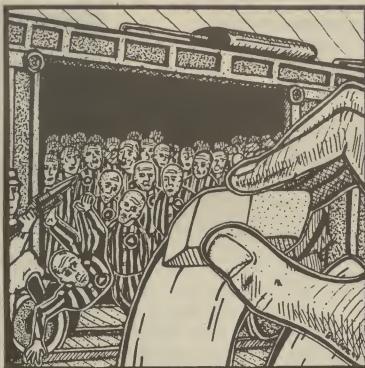
vey Milk will appear larger than life in a black-and-white on a mega-billboard under the slogan "Think Different."

The truth is, King was an extraordinary thinker. But his views were and are far more controversial — far more to the left — than the current soundbytes would have anyone believe. King wanted more than multicultural dance-a-thons. He understood that social justice was linked to economic reform.

Opening sections of the "Dream" speech highlight King's equation of social justice with economic justice: "The Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. ... It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. ... America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.'"

King saw nonviolence as relevant beyond civil rights battles he fought in U.S. cities. In protesting the war in Vietnam, King called the U.S. government "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." When positing the Vietnamese impression of America as their "strange liberator," he equated the U.S. military practices to Nazi practices. "What do they think as we test our latest weapons on them, just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe?"

King was America's most insightful, and often harshest critic. He went beyond the comfortable message of "love everybody" to the controversial details of what it would actually mean — in social, political and economic terms — to practice that love. Our country needs King's insight now more



than ever, but we avoid that which fails to comfort us. The most necessary words are often the hardest to hear.

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust ought to know that better than anyone. The truths about genocide and concentration camps are no easier to hear today than they were in 1986 when the commission began its educational work. But this month the commission erased a few of the details to make the Holocaust story flow a little more smoothly.

The commission deleted details of the treatment of homosexuals by the Nazis from its 92-page teacher's guide distributed to middle and high school teachers in Georgia. According to reports, the guide, *Triangles, Badges, & Stars: Remembering the Mosaic of Victims of the Holocaust*, notes male homosexuals among the list of victim groups in four places, but the only two extended descriptions of their victimization have been deleted from the Georgia edition.

Sylvia Wygoda, director and chairperson of the Holocaust Commission gave the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* two reasons for the deletion/censorship: "number one, it wasn't even necessary to the content of the book, and number two, it is not our place to put sexually graphic material into the schools."

Number one, I believe these passages demonstrate the twisted motives of the Nazis, an idea I presume to be necessary to the content of the book. And number two, these passages are not sexually graphic material into the schools."

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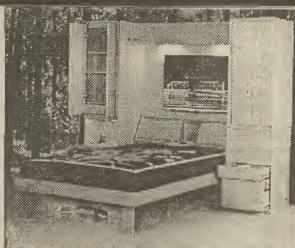
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MEDIA ALERT

Rich in spirit

by Liz Tracey, GLAAD publications manager

In the January 13 edition of the *New York Times*, columnist Frank Rich takes on religious political extremists with his usual incisive style and aplomb, again bringing to light the bigotry and hypocrisy of the Family Research Council (FRC). Rich writes about Michael and Jon Galluccio, a gay male couple who came to national prominence when they adopted a child, HIV-positive and born with a crack cocaine addiction, for whom they had previously been foster parents. The FRC has called the Galluccios "twisted," and named them in its "bad of 1998" list, for their efforts in the adoption and their work for civil rights.

All of these references, Rich points out, appear in the council's newsletter *Culture Facts*, which Rich wrote about in a previous column, noting the organization's use of faulty statistics to support claims that lesbians are more prone to domestic violence than heterosexual couples [See "Family Research Charade," GLAAD Alert December 10, 1998.]

Rich quotes Jon Galluccio as saying, "If they have a problem with us being activists and gay poster parents, as they put it, that's fine. But don't put our kids in it." Earlier in the story, Galluccio points to the climate created by the targeting of their family: "The fear comes that one of their followers will be even more fanatical and take it one step further."

Rich also takes on the contention of religious political extremists that their continual drumbeat of rhetoric has nothing to do with gay-bashing. In response to such claims, he notes the rise in hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation as reported to the FBI, despite a nationwide drop in crime overall. He then asks, "What is the right's modern obsession with homosexuality?" Rich suggests it may be fear and bigotry; or the "culture war," in which the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community have become the designated scapegoats; or that perhaps it may even have an element of pathology, pointing to attorney Roy Cohn and Arthur Finkelstein, political consultant to Jesse Helms, whom Rich describes as "vitriolic right-wing exploiters of homophobia [who] have turned out to be gay themselves."

Rich ends the piece with an email he received, which movingly tells of the difficulty a reader has in trying to believe that "family

values" are somehow threatened by lesbians and gay men wanting to marry and raise children. "I am finding that my faith in God and my appreciation for family are in fact deepened and strengthened."

Please write the *New York Times* and thank the paper for Rich's continuing insight and intelligence in the face of attacks on the LGBT community from political religious extremists.

Contact Howell Raines, Editorial/Opinion Page Editor, *New York Times*, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: (212) 556-3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails)

Adoption articles miss the whole story

Standing in contrast to Rich's superlative article in the *New York Times*, two stories on lesbian and gay adoption reveal the unfortunate omission of the very people most affected by the issue: lesbian and gay parents, and their children.

In the January 14 edition of the *Bergen Record*, Ruth Padawer writes about the recent adoption of twins by Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Executive Director Elizabeth Birch and her partner Hillary Rosen. As in the Galluccio case, FRC issued a press release castigating the partners for their adoption. The *Record* reproduces quotes from the release, and speaks at length about the "Truth In Love" advertising campaign that FRC had co-sponsored. Padawer quotes from two of the ads, which touted "conversion" therapy for lesbians and gay men. She also interviews a spokeswoman for FRC. But the only lesbian and gay voices in the article are that of Jon Galluccio, (see above) and David Smith, a spokesman for HRC. The amount of space given over to religious political extremists seems significantly larger than that given to parents who are lesbian or gay, with nine quotes or references from anti-gay groups, and three quotes or references from LGBT sources.

A January 8 story published in the *Deseret News* discusses a bid by lawmakers to limit adoptions in Utah to "legally married" couples and single people. Adoption by lesbian, gay, or bisexual couples, unmarried heterosexual couples and, according to the newspaper, "couples practicing polygamy" would be prohibited. In the course of the story, two sources are quoted: one, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Utah, supports

diversity in adoptions. The other, Richard Wilkins, described by reporter Marjorie Cortez as "founder of an organization that lobbies for pro-family policies before the U.N. conference," supports the adoption bans.

Please contact the *Deseret News* and *Bergen Record*, and let them know that, as more is reported about lesbian and gay parenting, the need for fair and accurate information and coverage becomes ever greater.

Please stories at: <http://www.bergen.com:80/region/gayash199901146.htm> and <http://deseretnews.com:80/dn/vie/w/0,1249,30005314,00.html>.

Contact John Hughes, Editor, *Deseret News*, 30 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111-1902, fax: (801) 237-2530; and Vivian Waixel, Editor, *The Record*, 150 River St., Hackensack, NJ 07601-7156, fax: (201) 646-4135, e-mail: newsroom@bergen.com

Young, gay, and proud

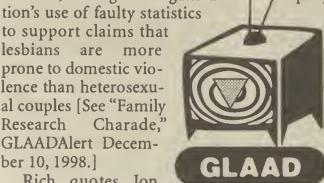
The January 12 edition of the *Virginian-Pilot* features a story about Jon Leszczynski, a 16-year-old high school student in Portsmouth, Virginia, who is in the process of starting a gay/straight alliance. The story examines Leszczynski's coming to terms with his sexual orientation, long before he felt comfortable revealing it to his mother and selected friends.

Lorraine Eaton writes of the young man's attempt to found the only gay/straight alliance in a Virginia high school, in light of complex statistics that purport to tell the lives of LGBT youth, including the risk of suicide and a higher truancy rate owing to fear of violence. Leszczynski himself confronted the fear of violence when he was cornered near his locker and taunted by fellow students. After the death of Matthew Shepard, Leszczynski considered leaving high school altogether; instead, however, he wrote letters to his representatives, and sought out support groups. With the encouragement of his mother, whom he had come out to in a letter, he decided to begin the process of establishing the student group.

Please write to the *Virginian-Pilot* and thank them for a deeply sensitive portrayal of a young gay man who has taken up the struggle for equal rights and visibility, in the face of harsh reality.

See story at: <http://www.pilotonline.com/news/nw0112tee.html>.

Contact Dennis Hartig, Managing Editor, *Virginian-Pilot*, 150 West Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510-2075, fax: (757) 446-2051, e-mail: letters@pilotonline.com ▼



GLAAD

Rich quotes Jon Galluccio as saying, "If they have a problem with us being activists and gay poster parents, as they put it, that's fine. But don't put our kids in it." Earlier in the story, Galluccio points to the climate created by the targeting of their family: "The fear comes that one of their followers will be even more fanatical and take it one step further."

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■ August 1-13 "MS Ryndam" from Vancouver
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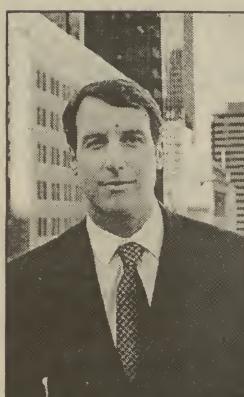
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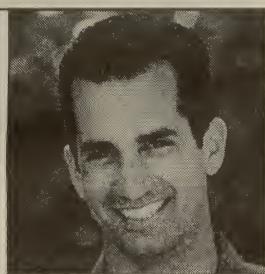
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by Ron McGlashan

5 00 Block of Haight Street, Friday, January 8, 8 p.m. The owner of an apartment complex saw a man in his building with two pit bull dogs. The dog owner was not a resident. The owner of the dogs claimed that he was a visitor and the manager informed the man that no dogs are allowed in the building. The suspect then pushed the owner to the ground at which point the two dogs attacked the building owner. Police were notified and the victim was advised by police to seek immediate medical attention. Neither the suspect nor the dogs were found.

Robber with force at Vivandis

Opera Plaza, Sunday, January 17, 1 a.m. An employee of Vivandis had just finished her work shift and was waiting for her husband to pick her up on the corner of Golden Gate and Franklin streets. As she waited, a man approached her and asked her the time. As she replied, the suspect produced a large knife and suggested that she give him all of her money. Fearing for her life, the woman complied and the suspect fled down Franklin Street. The police responded, but no suspect was found in the area.

Theft at Embarcadero YMCA

YMCA Embarcadero (Gym Area), Tuesday, January 12, 11 a.m. A man who went to the gym for a routine work-out returned to his locker to discover that his wallet was missing. A small amount of cash had been stolen, but to the dismay of the gym member, all his credit cards were in the stolen wallet. Within a few hours, \$7,500 had been spent. The cards were reported stolen to the various companies and a report was made to the bank. Police are seeking a suspect.

Robbery with force on Church Street.

100 Block of Church Street, Tuesday, January 12, 3 p.m. A local street person known as Mary is suspected of attacking an elderly disabled man by walking up to him and hitting him in the face. She then reached into his jacket and took \$170 in cash. Police are looking for the woman, who is well known in the Castro and sleeps behind the Safeway at the corner of Church and Market.

Theft on Polk Street

1300 Block of Polk Street, Tuesday, January 5, 11:30 p.m. A male suspect went into a local restaurant in this area twice in the past week and helped himself to money and other goods in the establishment. Police know the suspect, but have been unable to find him.

Polk Street score for this week

Twelve men and women have been arrested in the area on pros-

Dykotomy

◀ page 10

ally graphic.

Judge for yourself. One of the excised paragraphs reads: "German male homosexuals were targeted and arrested because they would not breed the master race; they were an affront to the Nazi macho image."

Hmm. This erasure in a state which has gone to the Supreme Court to defend its sodomy laws in recent years...

The other passage, which appeared on a different page, erased from history:

"The doors of the third [cattle] car open and the homosexuals spill forth, males only, because as Himmler concluded, 'lesbians can give birth.' The taunting jeers, and blows of the guards stun the men. They will stay a night and then be rerouted to Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald to be with their kind. The pink triangle they will soon wear is a result of a judgment that they have broken Article 175A, by sexual act, by kissing, by embracing, by fantasy and thought. Some will be given an opportunity to recant by successfully completing sexual activity with a woman in the camp brothel. Most others will find themselves tormented from all sides as they struggle to avoid being assaulted, raped, worked, and beaten to death."

This is the kind of paragraph that is likely to inject a little discomfort into a classroom. The passage characterizes the degra-

titution-related charges and all were repeat offenders. The SFPD and the people in the area are not playing around.

Drug crackdown in park areas

As mentioned last week, the Collingwood Park and Dolores Park areas are still the source of concern of the narcotics division and officers of Mission station. Several arrests have been made.

Blue Nitro crackdown in the Castro

Lieutenant Kitt Crenshaw of the SFPD Narcotics Division advises that the new drug Blue Nitro is illegal. The stores in the Castro, Polk, and Haight areas are not selling this chemical. This is now a law enforcement matter and we will keep you up to date.

Rose Bowl caters to bogus order

600 block of Van Ness, Thursday, January 14, 4 p.m. The owner of the Rose Bowl Florist flower and wine shop received a credit card call for a bottle of red wine and gift basket. A verbal authorization was given over the phone, and a short while later it was discovered that a mistake had been made. The owner of the card was notified and at that time the owner of the shop discovered that the order was fraudulent. The owner of the card notified the bank and reported the problem. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information or suggestions, call the office at (415) 553-1651, or call Ron at (415) 776-9399, or pager (415) 201-6004.

tion and dehumanization of the policies enforced in the camps. It is painful to read and might even be difficult for high schoolers to discuss. I could imagine someone calling it disturbing, but it is less about sexual activity than it is about a regime's wish to control sexual activity – and, therefore, contains lessons relevant to a contemporary American high school civics class.

More disturbing, however, is the notion that the truth – whether it is the truth of historical events or of a hero's message – should be softened, erased, or sanitized to ease the tension of the audience.

If we teach about the Holocaust with the hope that it will never happen again, then we teach from an activist point of view, with a sense of morality. Some historians argue against such a position, choosing an amoral approach. A group that calls itself The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is likely to have an activist mission supported by a moral viewpoint. If so, then the deletion of these passages is the insistence upon a half-truth in history and serves as a vote not only for the status quo of continued invisibility, scapegoating, and dehumanization of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people but also for an erasure of our history.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Prisoner released in Poliakov murder case

by Ed Walsh

Josh Puckett's convicted accomplice is a free man. Mardy Kisner, 24, was released from San Quentin State Prison on January 7. On October 30, after spending more than a year in jail awaiting trial, Kisner was sentenced after pleading guilty to both burglary and to being an accomplice after the fact to involuntary manslaughter.

Kisner confessed to police that he helped Puckett dispose of Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov's body in a creek in Puckett's hometown of Atascadero, about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Kisner said he woke up at his friend's house in Orinda on the Sunday before Labor Day 1997 to find Poliakov dead and so badly beaten he didn't recognize him. Kisner told police Puckett told him he killed Poliakov "because he's a fag and he likes me."

A phone call to Kisner's former residence in Lafayette was answered by his father, who said his son wasn't living with him. When asked where he could be reached, Kisner's father responded, "Leave him alone. He doesn't need to talk to a reporter."

While still in custody, Kisner consented to a series of taped interviews with this reporter and detailed the final moments of the 29-year-old Poliakov's life. Kisner said he recalled Poliakov paging Puckett and offering to bring drugs over to the Orinda house. Kisner said Poliakov arrived at the house drunk and the three did crystal and coke supplied by Poliakov. Kisner said he noticed that while he and Poliakov drank vodka, Puckett "only pretended to drink."

When asked how Puckett and Poliakov were interacting that night, Kisner said "In my opinion, I would have to say quite close. They were both on the couch. We were sitting in a big old room and they both were sitting on the couch and I was on the floor. Steve had put his legs up on Josh when they were on the couch."

"I was pretty kind of out of it and I didn't think anything of it until all this stuff circulated of Josh's sexuality. And then I put two and two together."

Puckett, who modeled for the cover of the international gay youth magazine, XY, insisted in interviews with this reporter that

he's not gay or bisexual. Kisner disagrees. "There's no way, on earth he's not bisexual."

One of Puckett's former girlfriends called Kisner "so homophobic it's disgusting." Kisner said "that's nonsense." He said he had good gay male friends in San Luis Obispo and has an aunt and uncle who are gay. "I think gay people are more open minded than most people," he said. "They don't pass judgment."

No love lost

In the early morning hours before the killing, Kisner said he passed out in the bathroom and never witnessed any of the beating. Although Kisner told police he helped Puckett dispose of Poliakov's body, he maintained to this reporter that he never saw the body and only confessed to helping Puckett because he said police led him to believe if he did, he wouldn't be charged. "I just said whatever to get them off my back. Next thing I know I am being charged with accessory to first degree murder."

There is no love lost now between Puckett and Kisner. In the spring of 1997, the pair met in San Luis Obispo and became good friends. When they came up to the Bay Area, Kisner introduced Puckett to his friends in the East Bay and the two spent much of their time together. Their friendship unraveled while in custody in the Contra Costa County jail.

One year ago this week, in the middle of this reporter's third interview with Puckett, Kisner could be heard affectionately calling Puckett's jail house nickname, "Lucky," but in subsequent interviews, Puckett and Kisner made it clear their friendship was over.

Kisner was angry because he said Puckett was telling other inmates that he took a murder rap off Kisner by confessing to the killing. Kisner said he had nothing to do with the killing and resented Puckett taking credit for him not being charged with murder. Later, another inmate told jail authorities that Puckett had said he had wished he killed Kisner while he "was getting busy" with Poliakov. "Getting busy" was the term the inmate said that Puckett used to describe his bludgeoning of Poliakov.

Puckett, who turned 19 last month, disputes Kisner's claim that he wasn't drinking at the house. He

said he passed out on the combination of drugs and alcohol and woke up to find Poliakov unbuttoning his pants. He said he hit Poliakov with the first thing he could find, a Martinelli's cider bottle. Puckett said he repeatedly hit Poliakov with the bottle after he got up and Poliakov continued to come towards him. But investigators have insisted that blood splatter evidence indicates the fatal hit likely came from behind while Poliakov was already down.

Puckett's trial ended in a mistrial last June after prosecutors played an inadmissible portion of Puckett's videotaped confession. After hearing that several jurors favored a plea bargain allowing him to plead guilty to involuntary

manslaughter and burglary in exchange for a 13-year, eight-month sentence. Both Puckett and Kisner had been charged with burglarizing a home near the Orinda house where the killing took place.

Because Puckett already had a strike for a previous armed robbery conviction, he would have likely received a 13-year sentence on the burglary alone. With credit for time served and good behavior in prison, he will go free by the time he's 28. ▼



Mardy Kisner

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95 ministers perform lesbian holy union to challenge church

by Lois Pearlman

Organizers expected 80 Methodist ministers to perform a lesbian holy union in Sacramento's Convention Center Theater last Saturday, January 16, but by the time the clergy marched on stage their ranks had swelled to 95.

The ministers blessed the relationship between Ellie Charlton, 63, and Jeanne Barnett, 68, both longtime members of the church, thereby defying a 1998 United Methodist Church ruling that forbids its ministers to perform same-sex holy unions.

Under Methodist law the ministers could be defrocked for the simple act of providing their relationship with the blessings of the church.

Gay former ministers and dozens of lay representatives from gay-supportive churches joined the ministers on stage, adding their presence to this act of "ecclesiastical disobedience." According to organizers over 1,000 guests were in the audience, most of them gay-supportive members from Northern California churches.

What had begun in October as a personal commitment by Charlton and Barnett's minister, the Reverend Don Fado of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento, to perform his next same-sex holy union in public, turned into a powerful statement of religious support for gay marriage.

Although Methodist ministers have been quietly performing same-sex unions for many years, the group's General Conference



Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton

voted in 1998 to amend its Social Rules to say, "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

Fado made it clear that the ministers officiating at the ceremony were ready to face the consequences of their actions. Before they read, in unison, the "blessings and announcements" that joined the couple together, Fado declared, "If anyone wants to file charges against us, this is what the charges are for, this blessing."

Following the blessing, Charlton and Barnett exchanged their vows, pledging to love each other for the rest of lives. The women wore identical outfits - gray slacks, turtlenecks, and lavender cardigans appliquéd with flowers.

The 90-minute service was a mixture of religion, politics, and pure fun. It included music per-

formed by soloists and a chorus of hundreds of local singers who call themselves DIVA (Diverse Individuals Vocalizing Affirmatively). Barnett's niece and cousin also sang a duet from *Phantom of the Opera* and Charlton's daughter-in-law and granddaughter recited a poem they had written together.

A high point was a comic song called "The Ballad of Ellie and Jeanne," about the joys and tribulations of lesbian love, written and performed by a husband-and-wife team.

Just before the benediction, audience members tossed hundreds of multi-colored crepe paper streamers into the air, strewing the auditorium with an overlay of helter-skelter rainbow stripes.

Brightly colored hate

Outside the convention center, cordoned off by yellow tape and police, about 15 members of the Reverend Fred Phelps's traveling band of anti-gay activists held brightly colored signs that proclaimed "God hates fags," "sows wed," and "Union made in hell." Phelps, a Topeka, Kansas preacher, has appeared with his followers at numerous gay religious events, most recently Matthew Shepard's funeral in Wyoming last October.

On the other side of the street supporters of the wedding ceremony formed a "Circle of Love," singing hymns and spirituals and holding hand-made signs. One group of supporters from Placerville, California, carried signs that said, "I'm a white, married, middle class, heterosexual woman. Homophobia hurts. This is my issue, too." ▼

Pleasanton priest faces removal for supporting same-sex blessing

by Vicky Kolakowski

Fifteen parishioners of a Roman Catholic church in the East Bay city of Pleasanton have petitioned Oakland Bishop John Cummins to remove their pastor for supporting blessings of same-sex relationships.

Parishioner Mary Arnold filed the petition Monday, January 11 against the Reverend Dan Daniel-

son of St. Augustines's Church, arguing that he has allowed blessings of same-sex unions.

Danielson has said that he authorized only three such blessings, and did not conduct the ceremonies himself. He claimed that no rings or vows were exchanged, and he no longer allows the blessings in the church sanctuary, and said that he did not want to appear to support ceremonies that could be confused with weddings. Danielson has stated that the

church blesses all sorts of objects and relationships, and opposes singling out same-sex relationships for the withholding of blessings.

The petition was filed just days before a large holy union ceremony performed by 95 United Methodist ministers in Sacramento [see story, above]. That service did explicitly resemble a wedding, and was conducted largely to challenge that denomination's policies on same sex relationship ceremonies. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



Increase in homeless deaths unites SF's gay churches, temple

by Mark Norby

Responding to the sharp increase in homeless deaths in San Francisco, gay-affirming churches and the synagogue Congregation Sha'ar Zahav are rallying around the central theme of saving lives by distributing blankets. Last year's record rate of 157 homeless deaths - an increase from 122 the previous year [see "TG among 157 homeless deaths in SF this year," December 24] - has led the faith organizations to greater action in keeping the needy warm.

"The irony is," said the Reverend Jim Mitulski of Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), San Francisco, "this effort is similar to efforts in the 1960s and 1970s. The San Francisco Tavern Guild, as it was then called, was an association of gay bars that would use their businesses to focus on issues of importance to the community."

"At times food was collected and other times money was raised through auctions. It was this collective of gay bars that provided the foundation for what is now

the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). So in this unity [of churches and Sha'ar Zahav] we also want to encourage businesses, bars, groups, and clubs to join our efforts."

Shelters have been at around double capacity for several years, leaving homeless persons nowhere to go but the streets. In these months of record cold temperatures, a simple blanket is for some the difference between life and death.

Clean new or used blankets should be dropped off in the morning this Sunday, January 24 at the churches joining in the effort, including: Holy Innocents Episcopal, Noe Valley Ministry, Bethany United Methodist, St. Francis Lutheran, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic, St. John's United Church of Christ, Radiant Light Ministry, and MCC-San Francisco. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Dolores Street will collect blankets Friday evening, January 22. ▼

Further info on the blanket drive or on San Francisco's gay-affirming churches is available by calling Reverend Mitulski at (415) 865-2740.



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Birch

◀ page 1

the vast majority of his Republican colleagues – he had come out in support of gays in the military, was a co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and had a rating of 75 percent on HRC's tally card – his opponent, Chuck Schumer, had a somewhat higher rating (85 percent) based upon his votes as a congressman. Their records over the preceding three years showed that Schumer was very clearly the more gay-friendly. In addition, D'Amato was firmly anti-choice, a fact that enraged many New York lesbians.

HRC's support of D'Amato led to a significant number of members' resignations, as well as the resignation of a board member. In addition to having succeeded in getting Clinton to attend an HRC event, its support of D'Amato can only have damaged what goodwill HRC had successfully created with the White House. In what was clearly a response to the debacle, HRC announced the board would review the way in which future endorsements were decided.

Maggot with an 'm'

Birch, who has a bachelor's degree in oceanography, seems to have found a knack for getting herself into deep water. Her view of her role seems to have been that she was not the "servant of the organization" but rather its leader. In a quote in *Out* she said, "Imagine what you would have done if three years ago you woke up and found that someone had handed you the movement." Several gay activists pointed out that no one "handed (her) the movement."

During the recent National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Creating Change Conference in November, Birch published an open letter attacking a very prominent New York lesbian activist, Carmen Vasquez. In her letter she compared Vasquez and Vasquez's supporters to maggots. The letter was so bizarre and

ridiculous that some even wondered if it wasn't a hoax until HRC confirmed that it was for real.

Birch's timing in releasing this letter – at a time when the conference gathered more gay and lesbian activists in one place than at any other time during the year – was hardly propitious. Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's executive director, was forced to answer journalists' questions about the letter, thereby increasing the coverage the issue gained.

Although Birch ultimately claimed she had used a Buddhist metaphor, many found it difficult to forget that she had compared a respected activist to one of the animal kingdom's lower life forms.

Contributions on record

Controversy did not end with the changing of the year. This month activist Michael Petrelis

nation in employment practices inside his own office.

Petrelis discovered that Rosen, the president and CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America, was Hatch's single largest individual donor out of 232 contributors.

The FEC files also show Rosen also donated \$1,000 to Republican Senator Spencer Abraham of Mississippi. The HRC rating for Abraham during the 105th Congress was 33 percent, up from zero percent in the 104th. Like Hatch, he has no written non-discrimination policy in his office.

Rosen also donated money to Representative Mary Bono's election campaign. The California Republican also had a low HRC rating for the remainder of her late husband Sonny Bono's term in the 105th Congress – 25 percent. In addition, Bono does not maintain non-discrimination work-

Birch's partner, Hillary Rosen, had donated money to several prominent anti-gay Republicans including Orrin Hatch, the Mormon senator from Utah, Senator Spencer Abraham of Mississippi, and Mary Bono. None has an HRC rating higher than 33 percent.

learned by scouring the website of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that Birch's partner, Hillary Rosen, had donated money to several prominent anti-gay Republicans including \$2,000 to Orrin Hatch, the Mormon senator from Utah.

Hatch has scored very low in HRC's rating system, earning a 33 percent rating in the 104th and 105th Congress. He received a zero rating for the 103rd Congress; and in the 102nd he was rated at 8 percent. In addition he failed to provide HRC with a written office policy of non-discrimi-

place rules inside her own office even though her step-daughter, Chastity, is a lesbian.

After numerous failed attempts to get a comment about this matter, HRC Director of Communications David Smith could only say, "It's not worth commenting on. We're not going to say anything and Elizabeth is not available."

Given that Birch and Rosen have recently adopted a couple of very young babies, they may provide Birch with the excuse to say that she is resigning from her post for "family reasons." ▼

United Airlines

◀ page 1

strate the same good business sense in San Francisco that it did in Los Angeles.

"United has argued for months that this case is not about discrimination against people with domestic partners but about the fact that a national air carrier cannot subject itself to local regulation. United's disingenuous argument that they are opposed to local regulation has just been eviscerated," said Katz.

United filed suit against the city of San Francisco – initially as part of the Air Transport Association and later on its own – to fight having to provide some provisions of the city's equal benefits ordinance such as bereavement leave and travel. Last year Wilken ruled that airlines, because they are federally regulated, don't have to offer other benefits such as health and pension benefits. Last week's announcement by Los Angeles officials had city leaders in San Francisco crying foul, not over the living wage ordinance, but over what they called blatant hypocrisy on the part of United to pick and choose which local ordinances to follow.

Katz and Leno said United's argument in its suit against the city has lost a lot of its steam in light of last week's developments. "It's as completely unbelievable as it is

hypocritical and it is the demise of their argument that they can't be dictated to by municipalities," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Added Katz, "To state that one local regulation makes 'good business sense,' yet oppose another local ordinance requiring equal benefits for people with domestic partners demonstrates a callous disregard for gay and lesbian employees, among others, and shows United's true colors in failing to provide basic dignity and respect."

'Shooting down' United

Jeff Sheehy, of Equal Benefits Advocates, the local group spearheading the boycott of United by the gay community that was endorsed last month by the Human Rights Campaign and later by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said United has been exposed by their decision to follow the Los Angeles ordinance. "One issue is about a predominantly straight work force in Los Angeles, the other they perceive to be about lesbians and gay men. It's homophobia pure and simple," Sheehy told the *B.A.R.*

Katz, who's an attorney, told *B.A.R.* that in her opinion, United's action with respect to the Los Angeles living wage law "shoots down their defense," when it comes to arguing that it can't comply with San Francisco's ordinance. Last summer when United filed suit against the city, it took the action to force Wilken to rule on the

one remaining issue that has not been litigated – whether it's so burdensome to provide domestic partners with benefits that the airline would be forced to stop flying to San Francisco International Airport (SFO). "Their whole argument in court is not to comply with local ordinances," Katz said. "The left had doesn't know what the right hand is doing."

Ammiano said that to him, United's decision demonstrates "a lot of Trent Lott-type thinking" among top brass at the airline.

Leno and Katz hope United will soon decide to follow San Francisco's ordinance.

"Their logic is so twisted and inconsistent that I'm almost hopeful that they'll do something to straighten it out, because the issue of fairness is evermore called into question," said Leno.

"In a nutshell, I'm extremely disheartened by their efforts to continue to fight our ordinance," said Katz. "Study after study shows that offering equal benefits does make good business sense in employee retention, satisfaction, and morale. Furthermore, the same studies find that providing equal benefits is not a significant cost."

Los Angeles' living wage law requires municipal contractors to pay workers \$7.25 per hour with specified benefits or \$8.50 without benefits. United became the first airline to announce it will comply with that law. ▼

NATIONAL NEWS

State of the Union: tricks and treats

news and analysis
by Bob Roehr

President Bill Clinton's State of the Union address had something for everyone. If lesbians and gays waited through discussions of issues as esoteric as the Y2K computer bug and alleged Japanese dumping of steel at below cost in the U.S. market, to the 70-minute mark in the 77-minute address, they were rewarded.

"Discrimination or violence because of race or religion, ancestry or gender, disability or sexual orientation is wrong and it ought to be illegal. Therefore I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act the law of the land," the president said.

The television camera caught Barney Frank applauding proudly. He and the Human Rights Campaign had labored to get a mention included in the address. That brief statement of support managed to avoid using the "g" or the "I" words. It is a tradition the president has maintained in all of his State of the Union addresses.

Past addresses had specifically mentioned AIDS, but not this year. Perhaps it was because the commitment to a preventative vaccine, made two years ago, still lacks a director to head up those



President Bill Clinton

activities at the National Institutes of Health. Two years ago Clinton said, "Remember that every year we move up the discovery of an AIDS vaccine will save millions of lives around the world."

The president passed up several other opportunities where he could have included gays and lesbians. His call for "sensible discipline policies" in schools also could have included a safe learning environment for queer youth. The many mentions of family did not deviate from the nuclear variety to embrace alternatives.

And the great unmentioned was the ongoing legal proceeding, in the other great chamber of the Capitol, that could end his presi-

dency. It may render irrelevant all of the words he spoke. It seemed like whistling past the graveyard.

If Clinton offered something for everyone, the Republican response offered a middle-aged version of Barbie and Ken pitching a message to their base of support. And in the process likely frightened those few lesbians and gays who stayed around to watch.

Representative Jennifer Dunn (R-Washington) made the only allusion to Clinton's ongoing trial when she said, "Our country is not in crisis, no matter what the president's outcome." She called for a 10 percent across the board tax cut and a different approach to "saving" Social Security.

Representative Steve Largent (R-Oklahoma) asked, "What does the GOP stand for?" The staunch ally of right-winger James Dobson, head of Focus on the Family, explained that individual liberty "comes from God and are his blessing on this land. Freedom reigns only as we act responsibly toward God, each other, and his creation."

This theocratic interpretation of American government surely sent shivers of terror down the spines of most gays and lesbians who were listening. Largent's government priorities include building a missile defense system for the United States and "protecting the unborn" by ending "partial birth abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide." ▼

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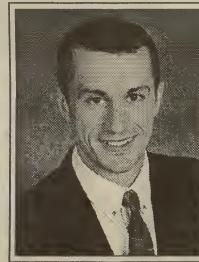
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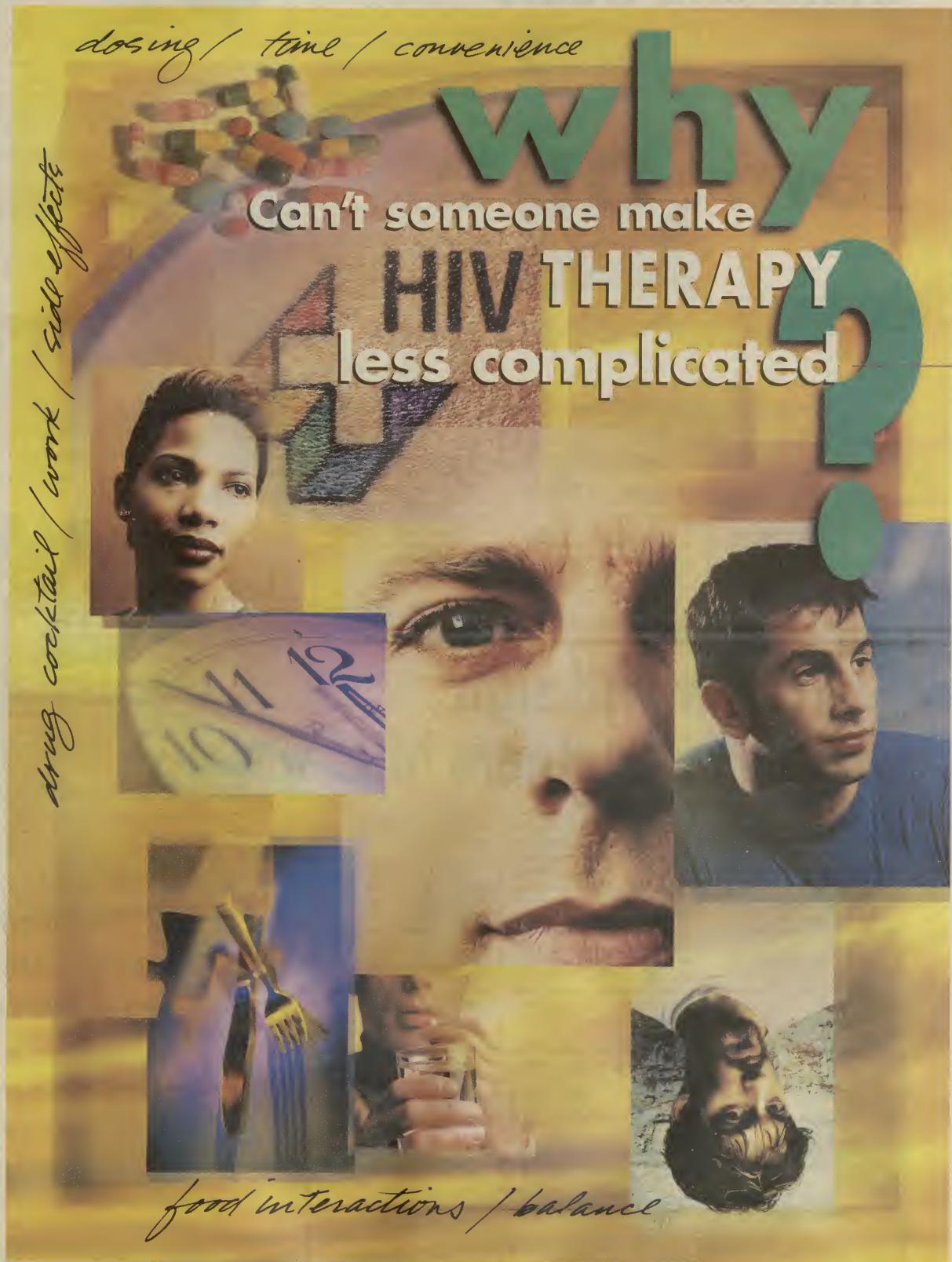
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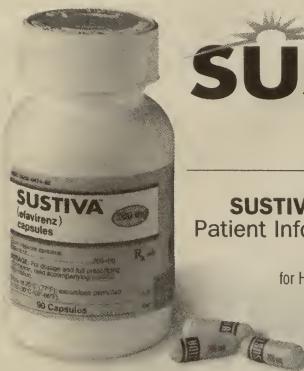
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- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:*

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

Appellate ruling may exempt fundies from gay rights laws

by Vicki Kolakowski

A divided three-judge panel of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday, January 14 in favor of two Alaskan fundamentalist Christian landlords who refused to rent to unmarried couples. The decision will be precedent in several western states, including California, and may affect laws protecting gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people.

The judges ruled that Alaskan non-discrimination laws could not be enforced, because they interfere with the landlords' exercise of the first amendment's free speech and freedom of religion provisions and fifth amendment's provisions protecting the right to exercise control over property.

Given the limited federal protections based on sexual orientation, most gay legal scholars doubt that any local gay rights ordinance could pass that test.

San Francisco attorney Clyde Wadsworth filed a brief in the case in support of the Alaskan laws, on behalf of the gay rights legal group Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Wadsworth has argued that the exception will effectively eliminate protections for lesbian and gay couples.

The decision says that a state cannot interfere with an individual's exercise of religious beliefs unless they can show a "firm national policy" opposed to the particular discrimination in question. Given the limited federal protections based on sexual orientation, as well as adoption of the Defense of Marriage Act, most gay legal scholars doubt that any local gay rights ordinance could pass that test.

Alaskan officials have vowed to appeal the case, requesting an "en banc" hearing before all of the judges of the circuit. Such an ap-

peal could succeed, since several other courts have rejected similar freedom of religion arguments, most recently the Michigan Supreme Court in December 1998.

If that appeal is unsuccessful, the Alaskan officials have stated that they would appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court.

Feds trump localites

Any appeal could become moot if the Religious Liberty Protection Act (RLPA) passes Congress this year and is signed into law, according to attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The bill, which enjoys widespread bipartisan support, is aimed at strengthening the rights of individuals to express religious

problem by supporting an amendment by Representative Robert Scott (D-Va.), which would explicitly exclude civil rights laws. Canady - whose visibility has increased in recent months as a member of the House Judiciary Committee and a manager of the impeachment proceedings against President Clinton in the Senate - has fought inclusion of the amendment protecting civil rights laws.

The RLPA died in the last session when the House Judiciary Committee dropped its legislative agenda to focus on the impeachment. It will likely be reintroduced early in this session.

Similar state measures have been adopted in Illinois, Florida, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Alabama, but a California version of the bill was vetoed by former governor Pete Wilson because it contained provisions protecting prisoners' rights to religious expression. Openly lesbian Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) had been unsuccessful in her attempt to amend that bill to protect sexual orientation protections. Another California bill is expected to be introduced soon. ▼

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**Palo Alto YWCA offers self-defense training for LGBTQQ youth Saturday**

by Cynthia Laird

A daylong self-defense workshop for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth takes place this Saturday, January 23 at the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula in Palo Alto. The free event is being held in partnership with the Peninsula Queer Youth Services Team.

Organizers pointed out that queer youth are routinely exposed to physical and verbal assault from peers, family members, and strangers. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 45 percent of gay students and 20 percent of lesbian students experienced verbal or physical assault in high school in 1984. A more recent study, done in 1995 in the Seattle public schools, was no more encouraging: 15 percent of gay and lesbian youth have been injured so badly in a physical attack at school that they had to seek the services of a doctor or nurse.

"We need to confront hate violence and homophobia in schools, and in society at large," said Meg Rothman, director of the YWCA's Outlet program, a support group for LGBTQQ youth under age 18. "Every student in California deserves the right to go to school free of fear, intimidation, and violence. At the same time, we need to provide queer youth with resources to defend their right to exist and be safe."

The Outlet program offers LGBTQQ youth a free, confidential

tial drop-in support group on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m.

Rothman stated that the murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard last October helped bring national attention to the issue of hate violence against queer youth. Saturday's workshop will aim to provide young people with some basic tools to defend their safety, both on the street as well as in less public settings.

Suegee Tamar-Matlis, an accomplished martial arts expert, will lead the workshop. Tamar-Matlis has developed and taught self-defense sessions designed specifically for LGBTQQ youth.

Rothman said that Outlet is one of many groups that will go to Sacramento on March 22 for the Queer Youth Lobby Day, a day of lobbying legislators on issues that directly affect the lives of California's LGBTQQ youth.

The YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula serves women, girls, and families through several core areas: the rape crisis center; AIDS prevention; child care; WEP and Teen WEP programs for women and teen entrepreneurs; Outlet; Hispana Familia Unida, which provides leadership and parent training for Hispanic families; the child abuse prevention project; and the many classes for which the YWCA is well known. Last year, a record 40,000 people took advantage of YWCA's services. ▼

Saturday's workshop runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., lunch will be served. The YWCA is located at 4161 Alma Street in Palo Alto, between San Antonio and Charleston streets. For information on the workshop or the Outlet program, call (650) 494-0993, ext. 32.

Gay speakers bureau to train youth this weekend

by Mark Norby

A free training program hosted by the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) and Community United Against Violence (CUAV) this weekend will "train young people to talk to other young people about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender," according to Erin Raber, assistant speaker's bureau director at CUAV.

The program, called "Tell it like it is!" will take place this Saturday and Sunday, January 23 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at LYRIC's Castro neighborhood facility, located at 125 Collingwood Street. Queer and questioning youth aged 24 and younger are all encouraged to attend.

Youth who complete the training will then be members of the CUAV speaker's bureau and called upon once or twice a month to speak with students at Bay Area high schools. One of CUAV's most popular programs, the speaker's bureau prepares queer youth to serve as active public figures.

At the weekend events, LYRIC and CUAV will provide food and further information on their many other programs.

"It's a great event," Raber said, "and a chance for queer youth to meet other queer youth and to train them to talk about their lives at the same time." ▼

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Bakersfield teacher confronts prejudice

by Simon LeVay

Come out, come out, wherever you are," is the mantra of gay activism. But most of the people who proclaim this doctrine live in large cities. For gay people living in rural areas, or who move to rural areas, coming out can present extraordinary problems. Here's how one gay man ran into trouble in Bakersfield, an agricultural city in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Jim Merrick, a 61-year-old science teacher, was born in a dairy-farming area of Southern California, but spent much of his adult life teaching at U.S. military bases overseas. "I grew up in the 1950s when the only option was to get married," he said recently. "I married my best girlfriend, Nancy, when I was 18, and we had four children within the next six years. We had as happy a marriage as



Gray Davis

Governor

◀ page 17

AB 107 by Assemblyman Wally Knox (D-Los Angeles) would allow the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to recognize domestic partners for health insurance and other benefits;

SB 75 by state Senator Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) would create a domestic partners registry and add domestic partners to current conservatorship and hospital visitation laws;

AB 257 by Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles) to reintroduce the bill vetoed last session which adds sexual orientation to the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) in both employment and housing sections;

Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl's (D-Santa Monica) bill to add sexual orientation to the nondiscrimination language in the California Education Code;

And Knox's bill to reintroduce his hate crimes penalties bill and other needed updates for the California Hate Crimes statutes.

Despite gay legislative staffers' admonitions to "go slow" and not push for too much too fast, the air in the Capitol is clearly celebratory. Attorney General Bill Lockyer made a strong statement on civil rights and equity for all California citizens and on Saturday attended the controversial Methodist Holy Union of two women which was held in Sacramento's Convention Center. [See story, page 14.]

However, Capitol watchers warn it will be late summer or early fall before bills reach the governor for signature and a great deal can happen between now and then—and, of course, the bills will not go into effect until January 2000. ▼

any two people can have, except that I knew inside I was gay. I kept it completely hidden. I was going to a Baptist church and I considered it my big sin."

In 1982 Merrick came out to his wife, and with her acquiescence began to develop gay friends. In 1994, he took early retirement and moved with Nancy to Bakersfield to be near his parents. He took a job at the Rio Bravo-Greely Union School, 12 miles outside of town among the alfalfa and cotton fields. Very soon after the move, Merrick met Norm Prigge, a retired philosophy professor at California State University, Bakersfield, and the two men moved in together, while Nancy moved into a house that she and Jim had bought nearby. "We're still married and she's still one of my closest friends," Merrick said.

Merrick was well liked as a teacher, and his life continued uneventfully until the spring of 1998, when he attended a meeting of the Kern County Human Relations Commission. The

commission's by-laws mention sexual orientation as one of the categories of human diversity that are entitled to respect. Thus Merrick was surprised to hear one of the commission members, the Reverend Douglas Hearn, denounce gay people as sick and therefore unsuitable to be teachers. Merrick wrote to a local newspaper about the matter and also filed a complaint with the county. During the summer the matter became a focus of debate in the community.

When school started again in the fall, Merrick found that he was losing students. With the permission of the school principal, more and more of the children were sitting out his classes in the school library. Challenged about this, the principal, Ernie Unruh, said that he was merely acquiescing to the wishes of the children's parents. "Although I hadn't officially come out at that point," Merrick said recently, "the perception among some parents was that I was gay, and that was the

reason they wanted their kids out of my class. There were no complaints about my teaching."

Life in a cage

After a lifetime of keeping a low profile, Merrick now felt summoned to battle. "There must be 60-80 kids in that school who are gay or lesbian," he said. "What must it be like for them to see a teacher having kids taken out of his class because people think he's evil or that he'll hurt children?" Merrick filed a complaint with the California State Labor Board, saying that the school discriminated against him because of his sexual orientation, and he also filed a complaint with the school board. On Monday, January 11 the board rejected his complaint. However, both the California Teachers' Association and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund have taken up Merrick's cause, threatening to file a suit against the school board if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily. Thus the controversy is building toward some kind of cli-

max in the coming months.

Another gay teacher, who is a friend of Merrick's but is not himself completely out of the closet, said that gay people who move to rural areas often have a different experience than those who were brought up there. "I think that they often don't see the discrimination," he said. "Only slowly does it dawn on them that they can't do the things they did in, say, Hollywood. People like myself who've lived here their entire lives, we know what the rules are, we've learned to live with them. It's analogous to a wild animal put in a cage versus one that's lived in a zoo its entire life."

Merrick refuses to offer any blanket condemnation of small-town attitudes. "I've received tremendous support from the gay community in Bakersfield," he said, "and from many straight people too. I know that 15 kids have been pulled out of my classes, but 165 kids are still there. It's just not as conservative here as people say, otherwise there wouldn't be any kids left." ▼

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For more information about these studies please call Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215. HIVCare is a non-profit, community-based clinical trial program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.

Canadian gay bar fined for discriminating against TG woman

by Vicki Kolakowski

A Canadian tribunal issued a fine Tuesday, January 12 against a British Columbia gay bar that barred a transsexual woman from using a women's restroom before completing surgery.

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal ruled that B.J.'s Lounge in Victoria discriminated against Tawney Sheridan after prohibiting her from using the women's room in 1995. Female customers had complained to the bar's management, who are considering whether to appeal the decision.

Sheridan has since completed surgery and lives with her new husband in Oregon.

"Transsexuals in transition who are living members of the desired sex should be considered to be members of that sex," said Barbara Humphrey on behalf of the tribunal. The owners failed to prove that Sheridan's use of the restroom caused other female customers "undue hardship," Humphrey ruled.

Bathroom access is a big issue to many transgenders people, and has been the source of local controversy as well.

A similar case arose locally in 1997, when the Savoy, a popular South Bay lesbian bar, placed a sign

on the main multi-stall bathroom that it was for genetic women only, leaving a single stall bathroom for all other patrons. Ironically, the bar's owner at the time was herself transsexual, who said she was responding to customer complaints. The sign was quickly removed after more widespread customer protest against the policy.

Also in 1997, Dominick Pizorno was dragged out of a single stall men's room in the Berkeley courthouse by a Berkeley police officer because he is transgendered.

The Berkeley Police Review Commission ruled in June 1998 that the officer violated Pizorno's civil rights. ▼

Disclosure: The author represented Mr. Pizorno during part of his complaint to the Berkeley Police Review Commission, in her capacity as co-chair of the Bay Area Transgender Law Association. Mr. Pizorno is now her co-chair of BATLAW.

Look for Banana appeal ahead: Zimbabwe's ex-president sentenced for sodomy, assault

United Press International

A court in Zimbabwe has sentenced the country's former President Canaan Banana to 10 years in jail on 11 counts of committing sodomy and homosexual assault.

Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku ruled that Banana would have to spend at least one year of his sentence in prison, but the sentence may be commuted because of Banana's frail health.

The 62-year-old ex-president, Methodist minister, and professor of theology looked downcast after the sentencing, and his lawyers said they would appeal the conviction.

Judge Chidyausiku later set

bail at 250,000 Zimbabwe dollars (\$6,000 U.S.) cash, plus the rights to Banana's mansion.

Banana's lawyers said the bail was set too high and would appeal that decision also.

Last November, Banana was convicted on all charges of abusing power during his seven-year presidency and committing the sex crimes, but fled to South Africa to avoid sentencing.

He returned to Zimbabwe, which has strict anti-homosexual laws, in December after South African President Nelson Mandela intervened in the case, pleading a more lenient sentence.

Banana's sentence includes forced labor, which would probably include agricultural work. ▼

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National lesbian health report issued

by Liz Highleyman

The Institute of Medicine (IOM), an independent organization concerned with health issues, last week released a new study on lesbian health. The principle finding of the study was that researchers and physicians lack knowledge about lesbian health.

The study, entitled "Lesbian

Health: Current Assessment and Directions for the Future," found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether lesbians are at higher risk than other women of diseases such as cancer and heart disease. Past studies have suggested that lesbians are at higher risk of breast cancer than heterosexual women, most likely because lesbians are less likely to bear children and more likely to be heavier than normal weight

Transgender woman murdered in Austin, Texas

by Liz Highleyman

On Friday, January 8, the body of Lauryn Paige was found in a wooded area in Austin, Texas. Paige, 18, was a transgender woman who was also known as Donald Fuller.

Two men were seen earlier in the day near the site where Paige's body was located. Police prepared composite sketches based on witness descriptions of the men.

According to Austin's *American Statesman* newspaper, one of the men, Frank Santos, turned himself in to the police when he saw his own picture. Santos reported that he had seen his brother-in-law, Gamaliel Mireles Coria, driving off with Paige the morning the body was found. Coria's girlfriend later told police that Coria had confessed to her that he had killed Paige. Coria was arrested.

ed on January 13 and remains in custody with a \$1 million bail.

According to Paige's father, Paige often cross-dressed as a woman. He noted, "He's been that way all his life. We always knew he was a little different, and we pretty much accepted it, but we didn't allow it around the house. We just knew he wasn't happy unless he dressed up."

Police reported that Paige sustained more than one stab wound, as well as a nine-inch slash to her throat. Before Coria was arrested, Police Commander Gary Olfers stated, "We are dealing with sadistic killers. ... They were brutal in the application of those wounds." Riki Anne Wilchins of Gender-PAC, a national transgender rights advocacy group, said the killing was "heartbreakingly familiar. ... It's a familiar litany of brutally violent acts done to gender-different people." ▼

Local groups to hold gay discrimination workshop

by Vicky Kolakowski

The Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), the local lesbian, gay, bisexual bar association, is joining with the San Francisco Women Lawyers Alliance (SFWLA) to host a legal seminar by labor attorney Susan Bluer on Thursday, January 28. The two-hour seminar will be a condensed version of a four-hour training program. Bluer conducts for both private and public sector employers.

While directed at attorneys, the combined legal and diversity training might also be of interest to employers interested in eliminating destructive homophobic behavior from workplaces.

The workshop will address distinctions between orientation, behavior and identity; connections between discrimination and harassment; and distinctions between beliefs and inappropriate behavior and between appropriate

and hostile language.

Bluer is a published author of several recent articles on sexual orientation labor law, some of which will be distributed at the workshop. She practices with the San Francisco labor law firm of Cuirale Dellaverson Hirschfeld Kelly & Kraemer, LLP, and is a board member of SFWLA.

The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the offices of McCutchen, Doyle Brown & Enerson, located on the 25th floor of Three Embarcadero Center. Workshop registration is \$10 for BALIF and SFWLA members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for law students. Space is limited, so advance registration is recommended. ▼

Mail registration to SFWLA, 268 Bush Street, Suite 2913, SF, CA 94104. Contact Susan Bluer at (415) 835-9004 for more information.



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New Leaf is funded through the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, AIDS Office, Commission on Aging, Mayor's Office of Community Development, HSSA, State of CA grants including Academy of Friends, Horizons, Macy's, and Richmond/Emmett Foundation.

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References: 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomised trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zidovudine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet* 1997; 349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus indinavir in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med* 1997;337:725-733.

Please see brief summary for Combivir on adjacent page.

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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Web site: www.gw.com

BRIEF SUMMARY**COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)**

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING ZIDOVUDINE AND LAMIVUDINE (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

Description of Clinical Studies: COMBIVIR: There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUC3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	NRTI ^a plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

^aAn investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINdications: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity. Myopathy: Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine, and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

PRECAUTIONS:

General: Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection: In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance <50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

Information for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with the disease. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR is not a neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon-alpha, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mouse) and 58 times (rat) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at three dose levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 228.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous poly) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing off-spring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (−1000 mg nonpregnant body weight or −450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tract in the offspring of mice receiving the highest dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Mutagenicity: Lamivudine: Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeat doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

Impairment of Fertility: **Lamivudine:** In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at oral doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies in rats and rabbits with zidovudine at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity in the rat at orally administered doses up to 500 mg/kg per day. A significant increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3863 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed their infants. The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a statement of support of this recommendation.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers subsection of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breastfeed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
Skin	
Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm ³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm ³)	0.4% (40)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Observed During Clinical Practice: In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during off-label use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, and/or potential causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR.

Endocrine and Metabolic: hyperglycemia.

General: Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas: Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis.

Musculoskeletal: Muscle weakness with CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

Nervous: Seizures.

Skin: Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

OVERDOSE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 times the recommended dose. Symptoms include nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GSZV, is enhanced.

USAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; and 4,837,208.

GlaxoWellcome

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Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from Biochem Pharma Inc.

Laval, Quebec, Canada

May 1998/R/L-589

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Mark Fielding Childress
October 28, 1954 — January 8, 1999



Mark Childress, a native of El Paso, Texas and a long-time San Francisco resident, died of complications from AIDS on January 8, 1999. He was 44 years old.

The son of Coy & Marjorie Childress, Mark graduated from high school in El Paso in 1972 and attended the University of Texas at El Paso.

Mark began a career in data communications following school and continued in that field after his move to San Francisco in 1975. He was a long-time employee of the law firm of Farrell, Braun & Martel where he worked as a network administrator. He retired from Farrell as MIS Director in 1995.

He is survived by his parents, his brother Paul, sisters Mary & Martha, nieces & nephews Whitney, David, and Ethan, a great-niece Lauren, his partner Wayne Ross, and a large circle of friends who will all miss his warmth, love and

tireless enthusiasm dearly.

A memorial celebration will be held at the home of Lu Conrad, at 4035 20th Street, San Francisco on January 23, 1999 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurses and Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 7999, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Jeff Jones
1955 — 1999



Jeff died in San Francisco on January 9 after a long battle with hepatitis. He lived his last year with unflagging courage and grace, and his sweetness and sense of humor never deserted him even in his most difficult days. Jeff was an extraordinarily kind and generous person; he was fascinated by the flowers and animals and people in the world, and he reveled in their differences and nurtured them. He will be missed forever by those who loved him, and whom he loved.

He leaves his partner David Linger, his devoted family of choice in San Francisco and elsewhere, and Jones family members in Kansas and Missouri. It is Jeff's wish that he be remembered by donations to the National AIDS Memorial Grove, Project Inform, or Project Open Hand.

Dennis J. Kukla
April 1, 1946 — January 14, 1999



On January 14th, my lover of over 19 years died at our home in my arms along with a dozen stuffed animals he so dearly loved (yes, even the Teletubbies were there) due to HIV related complications.

This gentle man, who was so dearly loved by all, had a passion for traveling a great deal and making

friends wherever he went. His congenial manner and honesty were traits most loved by his friends.

Dennis' fondness for traveling took us from Australia to Germany in the years we were together, in addition to a couple dozen visits to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, a city he loved almost as much as San Francisco.

Dennis came to San Francisco in 1972 from Cleveland, Ohio. He worked at Montgomery Ward until 1995. He is survived by his mother Martha and his sister Mary Jane of Middlefield, Ohio.

To my Polish Prince, we will miss you so much. May your soul rest in peace at that "Mardi Gras" in the sky. All my love, Steve!

A memorial service will be held at Most Holy Redeemer on January 23rd at 9 a.m.

Michael Jay Weber
January 22, 1955 — January 7, 1999



Michael Weber passed on Thursday, January 7 amongst friends and family. After a slow migration from Barberton, Ohio 20 years ago, Michael began calling the Russian River his home, and it truly was. Michael embodied the spirit and essence of the River area, and through his big-heartedness and years of bartending touched the lives of many. He will be missed, and yet he lives on through all of us. He is survived by his mother Yola, and by his brothers and sister: David, Tanya, Craig, and Pat. He is also survived by sister-in-laws Christine and Bruna, and by nieces and nephews Mallory, Joshua, Taylor, and Mackenzie. Following many small rituals, his birthday will be celebrated Saturday, January 23 at the Rainbow Cattle Company in Guerneville, California. Food, refreshments and mayhem. 6 p.m. to whenever.

John Howard Mackin III

A friend for us all passed away unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack

on Sunday, December 27, 1998.

John was born in Yonkers, New York, and attended school there. Upon graduation from high school, he moved to California and attended San Diego State University, graduation with a B.A. in Psychology.

He pursued his love of cooking and owned and operated restaurants in Cali-

fornia, including the Russian River and Palm Springs prior to moving to Tucson, Arizona.

John became a friend to the Tucson Community while working briefly at the Stonewall/Eagle, and for the past three years as the manager/bartender at the Graduate.

John is survived by his sister, Sue Maddox, two nieces and one grand-niece from Houston, Texas, who all dearly adored him.

A celebration of life will be held for John on Saturday, February 20, 2-5 p.m. at Molly Brown's in Guerneville.

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The alphabeticals:

Nonprofits that support AIDS vaccine work

by Bill Snow, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Maybe someday mankind will grow up, stop acting silly about sex, and stop using acronyms. In the meantime, the AIDS world is an alphabet-soup of organizations — AU^GG, TAG, SFAF, GMHC, PI, ATN. When someone starts a new one, they have to rearrange the same basic noodles: A is for AIDS, V is for Vaccine, T is for Treatment.

I've been harping in this column for the last couple of years about the shortcomings of government and industry in developing an anti-HIV vaccine. You should know that there are a very few nonprofit foundations and advocacy organizations that are making a contribution to this effort. Each has its own niche and strength, as well as its own acronym. All are important; aside from that, they have almost nothing — besides the ultimate goal of an AIDS vaccine — in common.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, known as

UNAIDS, is a joint venture of four UN agencies, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. Despite these aristocratic parents, the group, led by Dr. Peter Piot and based in Geneva, is small and modestly funded,

partly by the U.S. State Department's USAID program. UNAIDS sees itself as a provider of information, consultant, and facilitator for AIDS-affected countries, particularly in the developing world. Piot is an untiring spokesman for the worldwide epidemic; year after year reporting increased devasta-

tinuing urgency of the problem.

Among other activities, UNAIDS co-sponsors three regional AIDS meetings in the developing world during the years when there is no International AIDS Conference.

On the vaccine front, UNAIDS has an ethics committee and a science committee that are available to review and make recommendations about vaccine trials at a country's request.

They are presently completing a thorough review and recommendations about the ethical guidelines for conducting preventive HIV vaccine trials. The recommendations will go to the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences

page 31 ▶

ACTION UPDATE

Give some bucks

Any of these organizations would be happy to accept tax-deductible donations. If you make a contribution, tell them Bill Snow sent you.

- AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC)
1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, #700, Washington D.C. 20009
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019
- The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR)
120 Wall Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10005
- Until There's A Cure Foundation (UTAC)
520 So. El Camino Real, Suite 718, San Mateo, CA 94402

Capture the fag

by Jim 'Camouflage' Provenzano

"The Men in Mylex suits moved with a lunar caution. Each step was the exercise of some anxiety not provided for by instinct. Fire and explosion were not the inherent dangers here. This death would penetrate, seep into the genes, show itself in bodies not yet born."

— Don DeLillo, *White Noise*

The Marines have landed. Almost.

In yet another thoroughly ludicrous turn of events, the specious Presidio Trust nearly allowed a turnabout in the events of its property. Despite overt municipal denial, permission was nearly granted to the creepy-sounding Chemical Biological Incident Response Force to basically take over Baker Beach, the Presidio, and parts of downtown San Francisco in a militaristic free-for-all to test their ability to "detain a toxic event." The date? March 15-18. The Ides of March. Those right-wing militarists just love theatre.

"It's a military base!" (*Slap!*) "It's a park!" (*Slap!*) "It's a military base!" (*Slap!*)

The only sane official to voice protest was, of course, our own Tom Ammiano, who has criticized it to the point of near-prevention.

You're thinking, "Is Tom the only politician with a firm grasp of the obvious? It's a public park these days, isn't it? Doesn't that mean it's essentially public prop-

erty? Can't I jog through there unimpeded?"

Well, Scully, nothing is exact in a town where government land can be pimped out on the whim of The Hat, who welcomes all lunatics, importers of slave-labor products, and right wing factions, as long as they pay the toll.

It seems the Marines need to rehearse for events which they'd rather you know very little about. We just might be invaded some day. And who might those invaders be? Hmmmm.

Well, strangely, just before hearing about the little Presidio War Games, I rented a film called *Invasion USA*, a fanciful propagandistic piece of cinema. Not as campy as hoped, (too much stock footage), it does however, offer a cartoon version of 1950s Communist Invasion paranoia in glorious black and white.

In this truly awful film, unnamed enemies arrive via Alaska, disguising themselves as US soldiers burdened with thick Russian accents. In the "LOL" sports-related department, one commie is detected when, wearing an infantry outfit from an Illinois unit, a US soldier, suspicious, says, "Say, how about them Cubs?"

The commie fumbles. "Cub? Cub is small bear."

The patriot then justifiably riddles the Russkie with bullets, thus proving the popular theory that if you don't follow sports,

you're a commie, a fag, or both.

These days, it's pretty ridiculous to assume that a crumbling snow-laden continent full of starving people run over by Mafia thugs could invade any country, even its own, but hey, most of you believed that crap from Eisenhower to Bush. So did your parents. It's in your genes.

And in a post-cold war era, diversity rules the enemies department: Koreans, Chinese, Iraqi cab drivers, or

(insert your deepest racist stereotype here). The media is only happy to bombard us with updated versions of *Invasion USA*, with better special effects, but the same paranoia: *Independence Day*, *X-Files*, etc.

In all cases, the military knows best, so don't bother to stop them because they're listening at every intersection and lingerie shoppe in the nation (*Enemy of the State*). It takes hapless environmentalists to document governmental assassinations, but hey, our military is busy doing its job, observing those suspiciously ethnic citizens!

Creating enemies is the most important element in selling the products of war. That is the sales technique of warmongers and war toy manufacturers. Humans are for the most part placid creatures, provided we have all our needs met in disposable containers. Without an enemy, more must be packaged.

Some people seem to think that aggressive team sports serve as a



Toxic couture

tonic to some innate craving for battle. I think it just keeps everyone toned up for the real thing.

Which is why I regret not being able to enjoy a game of paint gun fun with a pal last year. I'd been suffering from a knee sprain, and the thought of running around splattering Day-Glo splots of goo on a pack of faux-opponents had a certain appeal.

Such training may certainly come in handy some day for us San Franciscans, seeing as how our entire city may become the playground of the vastly corrupt military industrial complex with about 100 million bucks an hour to spend. Heavens knows why they don't play in Mountain View, which is #1 in EPA Superfund hazardous waste sites. They'll have a lot more goo to toss around there, and a few hundred less endangered species to squash.

Should the plan go through, the danger to us hapless citizens would be minimal. An inside source assured me that Marines shoot plastic bullets, which only fracture ribs, rather than burst moist fleshy regions of potential "human mobile targets."

And who might these targets be? That was not figured out, but I'm sure any pedestrian who might amble into said base/park/base during the Ides of March might suffer such injury. Any long-haired hippie fag types with suspicious-looking back packs would be the first captured. Take it from one who knows.

So now that the plan is nearly quashed, I won't be advocating that thousands of people block the entry points of the Presidio in a human chain to protest this idiocy. That would be seditious.

Besides, I know how that would interfere with your busy schedules. Why bother to prevent

them from boot-stomping around some park, when you can simply wait for door to door service?

Preparedness. Remember that word for future reference. See how many times the mascara-burdened Terilyn Joe and her sneering arch-conservative co-anchors will fumble as they repeat phrases like, "purely a low-intensity conflict" and "manageable airborne toxic event."

Watch as they pose as "objective journalists" while spewing pro-military propaganda with the veneer of carpet cleaner commercials. Those little wars in other countries are so remote. The 3-D versions are going to be so much more entertaining.

We, of course, will be the most expendable of parts. You thought the little PiG&E blackout of this season was an accident? Purely a drill. Anyone with eyes noticed the multitude of laborers, hammy fists at the ready the day before it happened, safely undoing potentially damageable parts and systems grids in preparation for what will be even more rehearsed and manageable "events."

So what can we citizens do, aside from checking our co-workers' lunch boxes for flammable items and packets of fertilizer? Stock up on bottled water, particularly those of you with tricky immune systems.

Maybe we can have binocular parties at the homes of our rich friends in Seadliff (yeah, right) and place bets on whether the Blue team or the Green team will win.

But why not rent the park out for our own benefit version of Capture the Flag? Who amongst you doesn't have some sort of military drag? It'll be fun!

We could do it as a benefit for the Serviceperson's Hopeless Law-suit Against the Military (SHLAM). After the war games, the faux-Andrews Sisters could sing at the Officers Club at a big circuit party, with .0001 percent of all proceeds going to this worthy cause, the remainder covering the elusive promoter's vast (snort) overhead, of course!

Complimentary gas masks will be provided at the door. ▼

Next week: Why I STILL hate pro football.

SU5416

for advanced KS lesions

This is a Phase I trial of an intravenous drug that has shown improvement of KS lesions in an earlier trial. SU5416 is an anti-angiogenesis drug that inhibits the growth of KS cells. It is NOT a chemotherapy drug. The study requires bi-weekly infusions for one month. Thereafter, SU5416 is available to participants for up to one year.

Main Qualifications...

- Must have extensive, active KS lesions that are no longer responding to a standard treatment.
- Must not have pulmonary KS.
- Must be stable on any antiretroviral therapy excluding experimental drugs.
- Payment provided for the first 8 weeks and for lesion biopsies.

Free garage parking is provided. Some transportation costs are reimbursed.

For more information, please call Mark Bowers at 415.353.6215

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FrontRunners to turn 25

by Jim Provenzano

A quarter century ago, a book was published that – if you don't count Greek mythology – was the first story about openly gay athletes in competition and in love.

The best-selling allegory of Apollo and Hyacinth retold through the tragic love affair of a coach and distance runner in the swinging 1970s, Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner*, has long been considered a classic of gay fiction.

The real-life version lives on in the thousands of members of FrontRunners, a world-renowned running and social group. Front Runner's first 25 years will be celebrated this weekend at several dining and running events.

Friday, January 22, a reception and party will be held at 714 Cole Street from 7 to 10 p.m.

Saturday morning at 9 a.m. the group's regular run at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park should be more popular than usual, with visiting runners from around the Bay Area donning their running shoes. A bagel brunch follows the run.

Saturday evening, the anniversary banquet takes place at the Carnelian Room (on top of the Bank of America building at California and Kearny streets) begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$55,

with a no-host bar.

Among the speakers will be *Front Runner* author Patricia Nell Warren, organizer Doug Farson said.

Sunday morning is the 25th anniversary run, commencing at 20th and Church streets in Noe Valley at 10 a.m. "It should be a big group," said Farson, of the event that annually starts near the historic gold-painted fire plug that saved San Francisco homes during the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fire, when most other hydrants were not functioning. The gold fire plug serves as a reminder of this historic line where the destruction was held back.

The weekend's events finish off Sunday with outdoor ice skating at 2 p.m. at either the Embarcadero Center or Yerba Buena Arts Center, weather permitting.

Almost woodworking

A handball bronze medalist at Gay Games, Farson said that members from the South Bay, Sacramento, and even Honolulu will be attending the festivities. He estimates that the San Francisco group includes around 250 people, with East Bay membership "around 100, and the Shoreline area adding a few hundred more."

Originally born at the 1970s Lavender University, FrontRunners was started by Gardner Pond and Jack Baker. They were

going to have a gay woodworking class and later decided a gay jogging class would be more fun. So did many other gay folk, spurred on by the new jogging craze.

When Lavender U. folded, they named their fledgling group after Nell Warren's popular book. New York and San Diego groups followed. Farson noted that "at last count there are 101 FrontRunner organizations around the world."

Along with being a supportive social group for fledgling jocks, FrontRunners sponsors sanctioned competitive runs. Since 1978, their annual 5K and 10K runs in Golden Gate Park have drawn increasing numbers of people.

The always-festive San Francisco Bay-to-Breakers race includes a strong lesbian and gay contingent, with the group sponsoring a post-run picnic.

International FrontRunners occasionally sponsors track meets in Toronto, Los Angeles, and New York. "It's very loosely-knit," Farson said. "There are no rules for starting a club. Anyone can do it." ▼

For more information on the events, contact SF Front Runners at 584 Castro Street, Box 300, SF CA 94114, call (415) 978-2429, or visit their website at <http://www.sirius.com/~ireland/SFFR.html>.

Free class to look at healing shame

by Cynthia Laird

Bev Wells, Ph.D., will teach a free eight-week class through City College of San Francisco entitled "Healing the Wounds of Shame." The course will begin this Monday, January 25.

Wells said the course will explore shame, its origins, and ways to heal its effects – or as Wells describes them, its "wounds." Some topics to be discussed include: understanding shame, the roots of excessive shame, shame in family of origin and current relationships, how we shame ourselves, and healing shame in current relationships.

The class takes place at Everett Middle School, located at 450 Church Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Wells at (415) 585-5212. ▼

School boards

◀ page 3

office in the country when he was first voted onto the college board in 1994, served as president of the college board in 1996. He was sworn in to his second term on the board January 6 and said he looks forward to serving as president again.

Among the issues on Wong's agenda are looking for expanded space for the college's gay and lesbian studies program, the first of its kind in the country. Currently, the college leases Everett Middle School from the unified school district and holds classes there in the evenings.

"In the long term, I'd like to see and independent campus," Wong told the B.A.R. "Other campuses [in the district] stand

alone, the Castro-Valencia campus is only in the evenings. I'll be working with the community to look at possibilities."

The other thing Wong plans to do is expand City College's HIV testing and education program to include other sexually transmitted diseases. Wong, who lobbied and got funding for the program last year, hopes to get additional money this year to have a student-driven program.

Both Owens and Wong pointed out they are among several openly gay people now in leadership positions of various governmental bodies. Tom Ammiano was sworn in as president of the Board of Supervisors on January 8 and last month, B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross was elected president of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transit District's board by his fellow directors. ▼

ACT UP

◀ page 29

(CIOMS, more noodles) that sets international ethical guidelines for biomedical research. UNAIDS has also been very good about working with the U.S. organizations described below.

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

This most ambitious and well-funded non-governmental AIDS vaccine program started as a project of the Rockefeller Foundation, which held three workshops in 1994-95 to determine how to accelerate the development of preventive HIV vaccines for the world. IAVI was launched the next year as a global initiative dedicated to speeding the pace of HIV vaccine research and development of a vaccine suitable throughout the world. Its president, Dr. Seth Berkley, has put together an organization that funds product development, lobbies primarily for more international programs, particularly from the G8 economic leadership countries and for a Global HIV Vaccine Purchase Fund, and publishes a great newsletter, IAVI Report (iavi-report.org). With funding from the Rockefeller and Sloane foundations, Bill Gates, the United Kingdom government, the World Bank, UNAIDS, and others, IAVI is in a class by itself.

Just before World AIDS Day 1998, IAVI launched its own product development teams, based on a blueprint plan they had issued at Geneva earlier in the year. Their strategy is to link promising vaccine approaches with countries to test them since vaccines need to be designed with a particular population in mind. In a sense IAVI is acting as venture capital investor for the developing world because developing a vaccine is so expensive and risky. This \$9.1 million

initiative creates two AIDS vaccine development partnerships. The first is with Oxford University and Nairobi, Kenya to develop a naked DNA vaccine plus a modified vaccinia Ankara vaccine for East Africa. The second is with researchers from the U.S. AlphaVax Corporation and the University of Capetown, South Africa to develop a vaccine using a new carrier virus of the alphavirus likely to be tested in South Africa. These three approaches with acronyms of their own, DNA, MVA, VEE, are among the newest and most promising technologies for potentially delivering parts of HIV safely and more potently to the immune system.

The IAVI partnerships are particularly exciting since most previously developed products were designed for use against the strain of HIV in the developed world. In exchange for its support IAVI has secured, also for the first time, intellectual property agreements to help ensure access to these vaccines at a reasonable price in developing countries if they prove to work. Dr. Andrew McMichael says the money for the Oxford program will be used to manufacture safe test lots of vaccine, employ and equip Kenyan scientists, technicians, and nurses on site, and fund Phase I trials in the U.K. and Kenya (along with support from the British Government's Research Council).

The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR)

Because it was one of the first AIDS charities, because of its emphasis on treatment research, and because it has Dr. Matilde Krim as its founder and Elizabeth Taylor as its spokeswoman, AmFAR is well known. Perhaps not so well known is that AmFAR funds research grants on a level much smaller than the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but with its own scientific review process. Last year for the first time, AmFAR solicited applications

for grants in AIDS vaccines and awarded about \$1 million to 11 investigators. This is a small fraction of the amount spent by NIH that year on so-called innovation grants, but among the grantees are some more adventurous, high-risk projects that have had a difficult time obtaining government funding. One of the most exciting findings, a new way to make much more potent anti-HIV antibody, was just announced by Dr. Jack Nuberger, of the University of Montana, as a result of an AmFAR grant.

Until There's a Cure (UTAC)

The brainchild of two Bay Area mothers, Until There's a Cure Foundation has grown to over \$1 million a year fundraising for AIDS. Their centerpiece is sales of AIDS bracelets, but they also raise money by sponsoring fund-raising events, advertising, and being the beneficiary of sports events. The Giants and 49ers have had Until There's a Cure days in the last few years. This group targets young people and families and often appears on talk shows and gets young stars to promote AIDS awareness.

UTAC doesn't fund research directly, but they have traditionally earmarked half of their money for other organizations that support AIDS vaccines. As such they had the foresight to be among the first supporters of IAVI and AVAC, allowing them to establish themselves as viable organizations.

AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC)

Three treatment activists – David Gold, Garance Franke-Ruta, and this writer – founded AVAC in 1995, in an effort to raise awareness and generate activism for preventive HIV vaccines. AVAC's mission is to speed the development of preventive HIV vaccines by analyzing obstacles to HIV vaccine research and advocating to overcome those obstacles. In its day-to-day advocacy

and its well-received and influential major reports, such as *Industry Investment in HIV Vaccine Research and 9 Years and Counting: Will We Have an HIV Vaccine by 2007?*, AVAC provides an informed, independent, and honest critique of current efforts toward developing an HIV vaccine. The goal is to speed development of HIV vaccines without taking resources away from basic HIV research, drug development, or other prevention research.

Vaccine Advocates (VA)

San Franciscan William O'Connell created Vaccine Advo-

cates when he was a public health student at San Francisco State University. Originally called VACT-UP (Vaccine Activists Committed to Universal Prevention, noodle-lovers) and unrelated to any ACT UP, this small dedicated group participated in the San Francisco AIDS Walk the last two years and developed a website that has recently been taken over by AVAC. If you have a VA T-shirt or bumper sticker, hang onto it. Since this organization has been dispersed to local community advisory boards and AVAC, they'll be collector's items when we find a vaccine. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Availability of Annual Return

Pursuant to Section 6104(d) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, the annual return for fiscal year ended October 31, 1998, for Arlene Francis Foundation, a private foundation located at 386 Elizabeth St., SFCA is available for inspection from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, upon request, within 180 days after this publication, made to the Foundation manager at: (415) 642-9420.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227632

The following person(s) are doing business as i2i Communications 86 Waller St., San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel R. Theobald. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 12/11/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/21/98.
DEC 30, JAN 7, 14, 21, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227696

The following person(s) are doing business as Mi2U 2415 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a nonprofit signed Melinda Peterson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/23/98.
DEC 30, JAN 7, 14, 21, 1998

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 300271

In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Scott Mattson For Change of Name. The application of Matthew Scott Mattson for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Scott Mattson has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Adrienne Kennedy. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 - 206 on the 2nd day of February, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN 7, 14, 21, 28 1998

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E03

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3 Bed 2 ba, plush carpet, full kitchen, washer/dryer, on-site parking, alarm, Muniview/Candlestick Park/Bay, Quiet household. Must see to appreciate, over 25, NS, ND. Minimum 3 months, no bedroom left, no pets. \$525/full incl. first/last/dep. Available Now. (415) 935-4664 or Pager (800) 851-4832

E03

HAYWARD HILLS!

Stable professional will share elegantly furnished 4-bdrm house above Hayward University. Deck extended from own bedroom. View. Washer/Dryer. NS. Refs. required. Share utilities. \$450/mo. + dep. (510) 881-8952

E04

San Bruno room for rent \$460

Incl utilities, new carpets near 101 280 and CalTrain. 650-873-8029

E03

QUIET SAN LEANDRO HOME

Room in Lg. nice house w/o other Gay men \$500per mo. Incl util.

Aval. Feb1. Call Jim (510) 6140995

E04

\$375m + Utils & Dep. 4br 2-story

Vallejo home to share.

(707) 6480999

E04

SHARE LARGE HOME

On Duboce Park 3bdbr flat w/2 other GM's. Laundry inc., dishwasher, cable, phn. jacks.

Close to Castro/MUNI

\$900mo \$900 sec. Call James

or Geoff 415-241-9026

E03

TRAVEL

www.LambdaResorts.com

Exciting new web site lists over 2,200 gay-owned & gay-friendly lodging accommodations throughout the USA. Free access, search capabilities, and maps.

Joinus Travel

(415) 391-1137 (800) 324-5359

JANUARY 1999 DEP
Tokyo.....3m(open) \$499 Bangkok.....6m(\$599
Osaka.....3m(open) \$499 Calcutta.....3m(\$949
S.Paule.....1YStay \$749 Manila.....1y \$590

Domestic Low Fares No Adv. Frrn 2100W/395 RT

We Also Carry Japan Rail Passes

OTEL 2000 45-46

150 Powell St., #403, SF, CA 94102

E03

SAIL THE VIRGIN ISLANDS!!

Feb. 20-27 we've chartered a 150 ft tall ship with 13 cabins and crew of 12 in the British Virgin Islands. A few spaces available. All gay \$1300 incl. meals 415-626-5678

E04



BAY AREA REPORTER

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Amendment Request for Proposals #148

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in developing Mildly Ill Childcare pilots for families eligible for CalWORKS Childcare.

This RFP will have four components, which includes a licensed mildly ill childcare center in Bayview/Hunters point, mildly ill childcare that is part of an existing licensed center or a collaboration between an existing childcare center and a licensed family childcare setting in targeted neighborhoods, in-home services for mildly ill children, and purchase of slots in existing licensed mildly ill childcare programs. Respondents may bid on one or more components. The program will provide up to a total of \$1,250,000 over the period from March 1, 1999 to June 1, 2000.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Tuesday, January 5, 1999. Office hours are from 8 am to 5 pm.

The 2nd Respondent's Conference will be held on Monday, January 25th, 1999 at 9:00am at 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call Teresa Joseph at (415) 557-5162. The due date for proposals has been extended until Friday, February 5, 1999 at 1:00 pm.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #149

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in developing Emergency Back-up Childcare pilots for families eligible for CalWORKS Childcare.

Back-up care is needed when there is a childcare disruption due to caretaker illness, vacation, holidays, program interruption, etc. Two program models are being sought for the pilot. The out-of-home model may be a stand-alone or combination of licensed centers, licensed family childcare homes, or alternative that meets state licensing requirements. The in-home model is back-up care where the care is provided in the child's/children's home. Respondents may bid on one or more components. The program will provide up to a total of \$1,200,000 over the period from April 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor after 1:00pm on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. Office hours are from 8am to 5pm.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on Thursday, February 4, 1999 at 9:00 am at 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call Teresa Joseph at (415) 557-5162. The proposals due date is Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 1:00 pm.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #150

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in developing an improved system of accessibility to special needs children in families eligible for CalWORKS Childcare.

The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates equal access for these children. Proposals are sought which will enable providers to care for or safely accept these children with appropriate CalWORKS referrals and increase smooth access to childcare for CalWORKS families with special needs children. The program will also track needs to influence system changes for this population. Services must be city-wide. The program will provide up to a total of \$395,000 over the period from April 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning February 3, 1999. Office hours are from 8am to 5pm.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on Thursday, February 4, 1999 at 10:30 am at 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call Teresa Joseph at (415) 557-5162. The proposals due date is Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 1:00 pm.

JOBS OFFERED

Have you thought about getting a part time job lately? How about a job that also helps out your community? And can be FUN! Good communication skills, enthusiasm & the ability to work well within a team required. Come by and pick up an application or drop off your resume after 10pm on Thurs-Sat, or after 8pm on Sundays. Health benefits available.

BLOW BUDDIES

933 Harrison St. near 5th

RETAIL SALES
Bay Area's #1 Adult Video/Gift Stores
Sneak Friendly Aggressive,
Well-Groomed, Sales Clerks \$6 PH,
Health & HK + Commissions.
Excellent Adv. Oppn.
Apply 960 Fulton Street • S.F.
2408 Telegraph Avenue • Oakland

EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT
THE BAY AREA REPORTER
San Francisco's oldest and most highly regarded gay and lesbian news journal is now seeking a dynamic individual for FT receptionist/office assistant position. Must be hard-working, professionally inclined, detail oriented individual. Duties include answering phones, greeting and assisting walk-in clients, data entry, filing and general office assistance. Excellent customer service skills, typing @ 50 w.p.m., must feel comfortable dealing w/sexually oriented material. Familiarity w/Mac preferred. Competitive salary, excellent benefits, E.O.E. Please send resume to: The B.A.R., 395 9th St. S.F., CA 94103. To the attention of the receptionist, or FAX to 861-8144.

E06

Asst. Retail * Live Shows
Cleaning 9.00+ins. Nob Hill Adult
Theatre 729 Bush St, SF

E02

FIELD/CHARTER COORD.
Field/Charter work w/youth in lgbt families in SFBA,nationally. Do support,advocacy,education. Dynamic,grassroots,experienced. FT. www.colage.org for more info. Letter, res refs to Colage, 3543 18th St #17, SF, CA 94110 by 1/20/99.

E03

****BARBACK****
FULL TIME POSITION AT
HIGH ENERGY FAST PACED BAR
APPLY SUN-FRI NOON TIL 4
THE MIDNIGHT SUN
4067 18TH STREET
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

E04

STATEMENT FILE NO.227759
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JAN. 14, 21, 28 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO.227700
The following person(s) are doing business as Daddy's Adult Boys Club 130 Landers St #J San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Larry Elwyn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/24/98.
DEC 30, JAN 7, 14, 21, 1998

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE

UCSF Stanford Health Care Positive Care Clinic is seeking a Licensed Vocational Nurse to be a member of the health care team in providing ambulatory care services to patients with HIV related diseases and primary care to gay and lesbian clients. Qualifications: LVN with at least 1 year clinical experience, HIV/AIDS clinical experience preferred.

Send resume to:
Jocelyn Purins, R.N.,
Clinical Manager
900 Blake Wilbur Drive
W3045 Palo Alto, CA 94304
or call: 650-725-6412

AMBASSADOR PRIVATE SECURITY
• NOW HIRING!
822-8811**TITAN MEDIA**

Secretary, Bookkeeping Assistant. Adult Video Co. Must have excellent computer, data entry and writing skills to work with dynamic executive. Be punctual, honest, reliable and on fire. Full time. Hourly rate negotiable + great benefits & perks. Refs required. Fax resume to: 415-252-7747

E03

Amateur Models Needed
Guys 18-25 for underground male fetish video. Must be hot looking. Call SF Fetish Factory 10-AM-Mid 415-377-0991

E03

EXTRA INCOME

Are you making \$35-60,000 and can't make ends meet? We're looking for motivated people who want to work part time. 888 234-1950 ext 7242

E05

Customer Service good personality, dependable. Call 415-972-2846

E03

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR RCPE

Must be 18+ yrs., be able to obtain DOJ finger print clearance and first aid certificate. Will be responsible for providing direct assisted care for senior male clients in a non-medical facility. F/T & P/T positions, experience not necessary, will train. Minimum to start 10 hr., possible benefits. Send resume to: Gay Care, PO Box 1035, Daly City, CA 94017 Licence #415600160

E04

FIELD/CHARTER COORD.
Field/Charter work w/youth in lgbt families in SFBA,nationally. Do support,advocacy,education. Dynamic,grassroots,experienced. FT. www.colage.org for more info. Letter, res refs to Colage, 3543 18th St #17, SF, CA 94110 by 1/20/99.

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FULL TIME POSITION AT
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EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

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STATEMENT FILE NO.227748
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227750
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227751
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227752
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227754
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227760
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227777
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STATEMENT FILE NO.227782
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JAN. 14, 21, 28 1998

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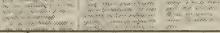
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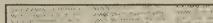
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San Francisco Opera's just-completed
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page 44

Shoot 'em up
Junkies on a crime spree
in new Larry Clark film.

page 42

Existential noir
Antonioni retrospective
opens at the Castro.

page 41



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 3 • 21 January 1999

Pointe men

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo return to form

by Stephanie von Buchau

They're baaaack!

Those muscular, genderbending ballerinas of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, dancing the fine line between high art and high camp, thump into UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall for a two-night stand on January 29 and 30.

With their extravagant costumes, glittering makeup and hairy underarms, the Trocks (as they are affectionately known) have been pleasing worldwide audiences for 25 years — except for that strange period in the '80s when fans thought the travesty troupe was down and out.

A younger generation of dance fans may not remember the glory days of the Trocks, when they showed up in San Francisco regularly, danced at the War Memorial Opera House, and broke new ground with their satirical yet scholarly efforts to send up classical dance with such works as that Victorian screamer, *Pharaoh's Daughter*.

Then suddenly the troupe hit bottom. They lost dancers. They changed management. They changed artistic staff. Tours became erratic and poorly advertised, and the repertory, tattered and tacky, was not well danced. Those of us who had loved the Trocks from their inception in 1974 thought that perhaps the drag phenomenon was a one-note joke that had garnered its last laugh.

As Julia Roberts said in *Pretty Woman*, "Big mistake!"

The Trocks are back, at full physical strength and dancing better than ever. The joke is still as delicious as it ever was. Tory Dobrin, current artistic director and a Trockadero dancer since 1980 (Dame Margaret Lowin-Octeyn), credits the Japanese with much of the Trockadero renaissance.

"With their drag tradition — Kabuki and the female company, Takarazuka — the Japanese are comfortable with our genderbending satire. They have a wacky sense of humor and, because of their familiarity with Russian ballet, they demand that we dance really well. Even when things looked grim for touring in the US, the Japanese continued to book us annually, and that gave us a budget structure."

Rara avis

What specifically caused the terrible slump in the mid-'80s, when financially and artistically it looked as if the Trockadero were on its last legs? Dobrin, upbeat and thoughtful, prefers not to dwell on past miseries now that things are going smoothly again, but he's also one of those rare birds in ballet — a dancer with a brain. His dissection

page 50 ►



David Tan



Like a rock

Sweet Honey In The Rock's 25th anniversary

by Heidi Beeler

She was on the set preparing for her feature film debut in Oprah Winfrey's *Beloved* when Aisha Kahlil, longtime member of Sweet Honey In The Rock, the landmark black female a cappella ensemble, made a new discovery about the African-American experience.

"All of those corsets and leggings — I don't know how women back in those days made it with the costumes they had to wear every day!" Kahlil said laughing during a phone interview last week. "Gol, if you got tired, you couldn't even nod off. It's like you couldn't help but sit up straight all the time!"

Kahlil, along with Sweet Honey founder Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon and other members, were brought to the film as music consultants mid-production, following a concert in Los

page 53 ►

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Stevie SUV

We had to get away from the Impeachment Side-show, and we had to get outta town, so we packed up a rental car, picked up our beloved Pepi, and lead-footed it up the highway, north to Mendocino. The rental car guy took us for butch or something, and upgraded us without asking to a GMC muscle truck. We thought Pepi would find it funny when we came to call for him in a truck wider than we are tall.

An aspiring member of the Mission Yuppie Eradication Project, Pepi perhaps unsurprisingly wasn't amused by our macho wheels, but maybe you will be, dear reader. Okay, we hate sports utility vehicles in the city, too, where they look stupid and piggy bearing down on us at crosswalks. But they're great for hugging those mountain curves at break-neck speeds, just ask our aggrieved passenger. Heck, the darned "utility" vehicle practically drove itself, as when we found ourselves, through no volition of our own, sailing through the gates of the



Love 'em or hate 'em, muscle trucks are here to stay

Roederer Estate winery and nosing into a parking spot. Next we unaccountably turned up at the bar, having just time enough for a quick round of tasting the establishment's few bubbles. The little genie who runs our cruise control seems to have a taste for chameleons, so we bought a bottle of the creamy stuff for later on.

Our destination: accommodations just outside the charming coastal town of Mendocino, the Stanford Inn by the Sea, where innkeepers Joan and Jeff Stanford were putting us up for a few nights in the Grand Fir Suite. Panelled walls, scattered antiques,

plush furnishings, sleigh bed, fireplace, CD player, two TVs, VCR (but we had left *Gino Colbert's Three Brothers* at home!), balcony and view of the tempestuous Pacific and the craggy shore — sometimes even Spartan old Out There can enjoy dancing in the lap of luxury. Pepi let it be known he doesn't want to be caught in the Grand Fir Suite when the revolution comes. Until that time we contented ourselves with successfully getting the fire lit, thus bolstering our silly male pride. We channel-surfed through *Zorba the Greek* and *Crumb*, the documentary about comic artist Robert Crumb, whose Mr. Natural would no doubt advise us to *keep on truckin'*!

The inn is very laid-back and groovy, with organic gardens and a working farm on the premises, and all sorts of fauna running around bucolically, including that

rara avis the black swan, and quite a coddling of llamas. The Stanfords' breeding program has resulted in so-called "llama beans," black llamas with white stockings. Very chic.

"Be careful, don't get too close to the llamas," we warned Pepi, "they're known to spit."

"Yeah, especially if they've read your last few columns." He was still not well about possibly being seen in a SUV. Pepi spits, too, but we still like him.

One morning we had an early breakfast with the proprietors, and Jeff asked what paper we wrote for. "Oh, yes, the *Bay Area Reporter*," he repeated after us. "I have an employee who reads it." We thought we knew which one. The Stanfords turned out to be lively, creative souls — he is an anthropologist by training, she a sociologist who once worked for the Canadian Red Cross. We talked Art, Anthropology, even bandied about our mutual contempt for the Show Trial. A couple of obvious fags in a sleigh, we felt welcome at the Stan-

ford. The inn's restaurant serves vegetarian cuisine fresh from their gardens, there are mountain bikes, canoes, a pool and hot tub at guests' disposal. Turned out to be just the idyll a weary editorial we needed. You can find out more at www.stanfordinn.com.

Cowardly acts

The Noël Coward documentary last week on *Great Performances*



Out There

mances (yes, that PBS chip in our set is fully functioning) proved that, talented as he was, the playwright was that terrible creature, the prudish homosexual. When homos all around him began busting open closet doors in the '60s, Coward refused to come out publicly, claiming that it would break old ladies' hearts in the provinces. Oh please, something tells us Aunt Mildred would have survived the disappointment.



Laurence Olivier, 1936

National Archives, London

Similarly, we learned that while immortal thespian Larry Olivier liked to sample the local ganja when he visited Coward at his Jamaican retreat Firefly. Noel himself, according to his hired help, was "sniffy" about marijuana.

Millennial menu

Last week, cartoonist Bill Griffith (*Zippy the Pinhead*) joined the Comics Hall of Shame already populated by Lloyd Dangle and Matt Groening by misspelling millennium yet again, violating the simple Liza Minnelli rule laid down in our last column. This is getting tiresome, inept spellers of the very late 20th century!

Fortunately, the SF restaurant with the name has no trouble spelling Millennium. At *The Millennium Cookbook* release party last weekend, Chef Eric Tucker and the restaurant staff treated us to such gourmet vegetarian delights as Moroccan Phyllo Crescent, Shiitake Spring Roll, and Plantain Torte — and got it all spelled right on the menu. There's a lesson for cartoonists in that. ▼



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**Jan 28
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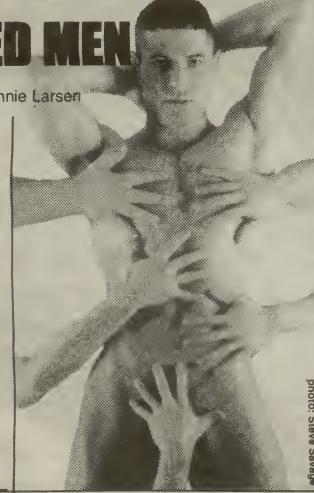


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THEATRE

Dreams of Mecca

'La Madonna Nera' at Jon Sims Center

by Deborah Peifer

knew a therapist in Chicago who would automatically add six months to her estimate for the length of the therapy if the client was Catholic and/or had attended Catholic school. Issues? You don't know about issues until you've been exposed to nuns. Tommi Avicoli Mecca is a playwright, actor and activist, but it was as recovering Catholics that we connected when we had a chance to talk about his newest play, *La Madonna Nera*.

The play began with a dream that Mecca had about a girl who channeled saints while building a brick wall. "I woke up and thought, what a great image. I knew I wanted to explore my Catholic childhood; I wanted to consider the meaning of life." Both Mecca and I are Catholics who rejected the church's teachings, but are left with a void where those teachings and the rituals around them once lived. When Mecca found a book at A Different Light bookstore about femi-

nism in Italy, he was fascinated by tales of a black Madonna (*La Madonna Nera*). "Throughout Europe," he explains, "working-class people and peasants have developed a set of beliefs around a dark Madonna who is seen as a protector of women and of the poor. Unlike the typical depiction of a blond, blue-eyed Mary who stands firmly with Catholic hierarchy, the dark Madonna protects the down-trodden and goes after the bad guys who are sometimes members of the Catholic hierarchy."

When Mecca was in high school he read Sartre, and moved from

Catholic beliefs to an intellectually convincing atheism that nevertheless left him emotionally unsatisfied. "As an adult, I come to realize that the atheists aren't right, but I believe religion is not the answer, either. The truth, I suspect, is somewhere between the extremes. I don't attack anyone's personal beliefs in the play, but I do condemn the Catholic hierarchy."

Mecca's enthusiasm for his play is matched by his delight in

his main character, Angelina, as played by Desi Del Valle. "I couldn't be happier with the work she has done on the character, and all she's brought to the role." Unlike earlier plays by Mecca, including a one-person show about growing up queer and Catholic in South Philadelphia and an AIDS play that was honored by the Mayor of Philadelphia, *La Madonna Nera* is not a queer play, but if you ask Mecca whether the show is infused with queer sensibility, his answer is a resounding "Yes. The show is definitely political — I've never written anything that was not political — but you can see this play and just enjoy the story."

"I think that being a queer playwright is about asking the hard questions. Being queer means challenging everything. I don't believe in a God that intervenes, but sometimes people do things that seem beyond human ability. What do they say, that hu-

Desi Del Valle in *La Madonna Nera*

mans only use ten percent of their brains? Maybe what looks like a miracle is really people using more of their brains. I want to believe that there is more than what we see. I'm open to the possibility

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REVIEW

Mother of God!

by Erin Blackwell

While watching Tommi Avicoli Mecca's one-act play *La Madonna Nera* I was reminded of a Broadway thriller I saw nearly 20 years ago. John Pielmeyer's *Agnes of God*, a full-length melodrama with juicy roles for a trio of wicked women (played with relish by Geraldine Page, Elizabeth Ashley, and Amanda Plummer), was similarly concerned with a young woman given to religious visions who turns out to have been merely pregnant.

I don't know if Mr. Mecca ever saw or read Pielmeyer's play. Apart from the central secret, the two dramas have little in common. But since it is exactly that secret (is she crazy or divinely inspired?) that attracts and holds an audience, the similarity of these two writers' themes is not uninteresting.

Both heroines' religious visions reduce to self-centered pleas for help in a moment of biological extremis they either don't understand or have to hide. Agnes, a nun, was raped by a transient field-hand; 15-year-old Angelina has been sexually abused by her cousin, Father Tony. Both writers use the dramatic situation to reveal the hypocrisy of institutionalized religion, even as they exploit its sensationalist potential. Mecca even manifests an old-style villain, a dimwitted Tartuffe whose holier-than-thou pose of cousinly concern is just a cover for incestuous heat.

No doubt need breeds miracles, but making the crisis of unwanted pregnancy the motor for stigmata (Agnes) or Mary sightings (Angelina) has the doubly regrettable effect of trivializing religious genius while enhancing the Vatican's view of women as manipulative hysterics. Particularly dismaying is the tidy wrap-up of Mecca's play: a miscarriage just before the final blackout.

Apart from its basic premise, *La Madonna Nera* is hard to judge on the basis of its present production, which is basically a staged reading without scripts. Granted, the play as written is linear, with nary a subplot in view, little more than an illustrated short story. But the actors do nothing but recite their lines to one another; the only visible prop for the hour the play lasts is an iron used in the first five minutes. Although the dialogue is relentlessly realistic, nobody onstage exhibits behavior indicative of life as lived in "South Philadelphia's Little Italy during the hottest summer on record" (according to the program). No one so much as drinks a glass of water.

The problem inherent to the writing of the play, finding a 15-year-old to play the lead, has not been solved by casting local film star Desi Del Valle. She may be short and petulant, but that doesn't make her a teenager; she fails to demonstrate adolescent-style vulnerability or zeal. Too bad, too, that Jason Arquin as the randy priest looks more like the choir boys' best friend.

Everyone involved obviously means well, and I'm sure Mother Mary is speaking words of wisdom, "Let it be," but a critic can't afford to be so forgiving. ▼

La Madonna Nera plays Sat.-Sun., through Feb. 7 at Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St.



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ACT's 'Juno and the Paycock' Strife and times

by Richard Dodds

Juno and the Paycock may be a great play, but it's not a particularly subtle one. Playwright Sean O'Casey created the atmosphere, ironies, and tragedies of his 1922 masterpiece by coupling broad comedy with the music of vernacular speech and a forthright pathos. At ACT, there are unnecessarily heavy hands at work that overstate the obvious, often to unproductive ends.

That's too bad, because when the richness of the play emerges, it's clear that the key players possess the talent and insight to bring these characters' troubled situations to life. The final results are still rewarding, especially since the chance to see this Irish landmark comes so rarely, but this is a case where well-intentioned "improvements" seldom accomplish their goal.

It's clear from the first glimpse of Kate Edmunds' set of Escher-like stairways that director Giles Havergal intends to loosen the realistic grip of the family-drama format. This particular family is living in poverty in Dublin as the unresolved battles for Irish independence continue to intrude on their domestic travails.

Jack Boyle, the shiftless patriarch, expends most of his energy in pontificating, avoiding employment, and carousing with his ne'er-do-well buddy Joxer Daly. His long-suffering wife Juno pro-



Ken Friedman

Charles Dean and Geoff Hoyle in *Juno and the Paycock*

vides what meager income the family has. Their son has been both physically and emotionally damaged in the war, while their daughter flits about worrying about what color ribbon to wear in her hair. Their circumstances change abruptly when an inheritance appears to send a small fortune their way, and the high comedy that ensues is tempered by the violence and grief outside their door that the family increasingly tries to deny.

Actually, in Edmunds' set, the Doyles have no doors, or walls either, creating spatial confusion in the move to make a bigger statement. Rather than suggesting a tenement hovel, the set looks more like a stone-cold prison, and if we still don't get the point, the director has various ominous figures silently patrolling from the maze of stairways. Havergal makes some other questionable choices, most disturbingly in the final scene, which is undermined by strong-arm imagery.

Burly burlesque

Despite these impediments, the clamorous tale of the Doyles is still communicated, thanks largely to the efforts of Charles Dean as Jack Boyle, Robin Pearson Rose as Juno, and Geoff Hoyle

as Joxer. As Juno, Rose captures the warmth and resolve of this character who has been continuously disappointed by life. As for Dean and Hoyle, these veteran troupers delightfully play off each other like burlesque comics, though they may miss some of the characters' darker shadings.

There are some stumbles among the supporting players. As Juno and Jack's troubled son, Bryan Close crudely telegraphs his angst, while Gregory Ivan Smith goes overboard with a fussy Niles Crane-routine as the daughter's suitor. As the daughter, Kathleen Kafer delivers a reasonable performance, and there is affecting work from Margaret Schenck as a boisterous floozy and Sharon Lockwood as a bitterly grieving mother.

There is nothing inglorious about exploring new approaches to a classic play. The problems arise in this case in not trusting the play to still speak its piece without obvious signposts. After all, it's not as if the miseries born of Irish strife are but distant history. ▼

Juno and the Paycock will run through Feb. 7 at the Geary Theater. Tickets are \$14-\$55. Call 749-2228.

Curtain Up!

◀ previous page

that we can do great, unbelievable things."

If you were lucky enough to see the film *Costa Brava*, then you've seen Desi Del Valle. When I spoke with her about *La Madonna Nera*, her enthusiasm was palpable. "I love this play, and I love working with Tommi," she explains. She was especially intrigued by the fact that "Tommi could write a realistic play about dreams and visions. Even though Tommi is an Italian from Philadelphia and I'm a Puerto Rican from the Bronx, I could relate to the working-class notions in the play. Fear keeps a lot of people home and in a small circle. Tommi and I were both forced out because we were gay. I could really relate to his sense of being the other."

What about playing the 16-year-old Angelina, who believes that saints as well as the Madonna are communicating directly with her? "My acting teacher at Columbia gave me some really good advice. He told me to remember that young people don't like to be perceived as young. I think I was more mature at 16 than I am now, but that's because I really regressed when I came out. I had a lot of lost time to make up."

I also like the cast — it's a real pleasure to work with good actors who are committed to the work." *La Madonna Nera* runs through February 7 at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1514 Mission St. near Van Ness Ave. Call 552-3031.



Mort Sahl

Briefly

Terrence McNally's paean to opera queens and divas of all genres, *The Lisbon Traviata*, runs at The New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness at Market, through March 6. Call 861-8972. Political commentator and scathing humorist Mort Sahl appears at Osher Marin JCC, 200 San Pedro Rd., San Rafael on Jan. 23-24. Call 479-2000. ▼

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FILM

Michelangelo's masterpieces

Antonioni retrospective at the Castro

by Gary Morris

Exploring interior worlds would seem to be risky, even suicidal, for an artist working in a medium as expensive and profit-driven as film. Some directors who have taken this risk — Carl Dreyer and Robert Bresson come to mind here — took years to finance a single work and were eventually consigned to the gulag of graduate classes in cinema and maybe an occasional revival. Michelangelo Antonioni has carved a place in both realms. He's made movies that few have seen (*The Oberwald Mystery*), scored commercial hits that also became classics (*Blow-Up*), worked with authentic movie stars (Jack Nicholson in *The Passenger*), and created a string of masterpieces in the 1950s and '60s (*L'Avventura*, *La Notte*, *L'Eclisse*) that brought audiences, stirred controversy, influenced other filmmakers, and inspired some to say he'd created a new cinematic language. (Happily, much of his work is so familiar that we can afford to look mainly at his lesser-known, early achievements in this review.)

Antonioni's biography predicts his inclinations, if not his achievements. Born in 1912 to a bourgeois family in Ferrara, he showed an early interest in the plastic arts — painting and puppetry. Surprisingly sportsmanlike (he was a tennis champion), the future director also wrote short stories and plays and helped found a local theatre company. Always a fan of movies, he wrote critiques of fascist Italian films, which gave him his first taste of censorship.

Fired from a writing job at the film magazine *Cinema* (edited by Mussolini's son Vittorio) in the early 1940s, Antonioni tumbled from the middle class that would remain steadfastly his subject, into the kind of poverty that provided the backdrop to many a neo-realism film. He pulled himself up by apprenticesing with directors like Rossellini and Marcel Carne, writing screenplays, and making documentaries and shorts. *Gente del Po* was his first official short (released in 1947), a moody look at the squalid lives of working-class people living around the Po River. Three years later he wrote and directed his first feature, *Story of a Love Affair*, which established some of his later themes of alienation and the inscrutability of human motives or purpose. His style was far from rudimentary even in 1950; critics of the time remarked on his habit, which became a theme in itself in the later films, of holding shots far longer, often uncomfortably so, than "necessary" for the narrative. This strategy forces audiences to confront the characters and contemplate them in ways impossible in standard narratives, which try to tie up every loose end. *Story of a Love Affair* shows Antonioni's interest in melodrama — adultery and murder in a plush Milanese setting is the subject — but even here the sense of his characters' distance from the exterior world is vividly marked in bleak location-shooting in Milan. Two years



Michelangelo Antonioni

later, with *The Vanquished*, he abandoned the melodrama entirely for a kind of existentialist noir that would sketch in miniature his later great themes.

Genre-buster

The Vanquished was an omnibus film, three separate stories set in Rome, Paris, and London, and it's indicative of its disturbing power that it was banned in France and England. The French sequence features a picnic in which one of a group of friends murders another; the English segment has a Leopold-and-Loeb plot in which a man kills a prostitute perhaps only to prove his superiority. Antonioni's level-eyed camera examines these events without probing them, chronicling without attempting to explain, or perhaps more properly, showing that such things exist outside the realm of reason. The director's casual genre-busting is also evident; these are in a sense detective stories that he refuses to solve. The Italians weren't quite as violent in their response; instead of banning the film, they simply made drastic cuts.

If *The Vanquished* stressed modernism over melodrama, Antonioni's next film, *The Lady without Camellias* (1953), has touches of a theatrical artifice. The plot sounds like something out of a Joan Crawford movie: beautiful young woman rises from shopgirl to beauty contestant to star. But typical of the director, she's forced to confront her own delusions (destroying her career with a mortifying portrayal of that staple of ambitious actresses, Joan of Arc), and she soon falls precipitously from her heights. The director's striking visual style — characters huddled in a fog or dwarfed by crumbling arches — has already matured.

The Lady without Camellias was not a huge success, but Antonioni made up for it with his next film, *The Girlfriends* (1955). It won the Silver Lion award at Venice and was perhaps the first of his films to inspire critics to speak of the director's creation of a "new cinematographic language." The title is ironic; the "girlfriends" are more treacherous than supportive, and their world is marked by failed love affairs, spiritual isolation, and suicide. (Suicide was always fascinating to the director; *The Girlfriends* was made right after an unsettling short film, *Suicide At-*

tempt, which re-creates attempted suicides by several women.) Antonioni's feeling for fragmented lives finds full expression in the famous beach scene, where the title characters wander aimlessly around, far from their natural habitat of the city, with only bits of conversation audible.

Fruitless search

For *The Outcry* (1957), Antonioni used American B-actor (and handsome hunk) Steve Cochran in a story that recalls his first short *Gente del Po* in its setting around the Po River. Cochran plays Aldo, a factory worker deserted by his wife who spends most of the film wandering through some of the bleakest expanses in postwar Italy. Typically episodic, and without a clear narrative, *The Outcry* manages to evoke strong emotions out of Antonioni's emotionally remote style. The film is also typical of his work in occupying an entire film with an impossible, ultimately pointless search.

The director's biggest success to date came with the trilogy that followed *The Outcry*: *L'Avventura* (1960), *La Notte* (1961), and *L'Eclisse* (1962). It's worth noting here that they weren't immediately recognized as classics; at the

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Paradise lost

Larry Clark recreates 'Tulsa' in his 2nd film

by Robert Julian

Within the first five minutes of *Another Day in Paradise*, we see — in graphic detail — young junkies shooting heroin, a burglary, and the stabbing death of a security guard. Blood spouts and fists hammer craniums as the soundtrack lays down an authentic R&B groove by means of Fantastic Johnny C's "Boogaloo Down Broadway." For turning up this classic and playing it in its entirety, I am willing to forgive director Larry Clark almost anything — and there is a lot to forgive in *Another Day in Paradise*. This film is gory, violent, and generically repulsive in a one-size-fits-all fashion. It is also an example of highly competent, technically assured, and visually stimulating filmmaking.

The time is the mid-'70s. Mel (James Woods) and Sid (Melanie Griffith) are a low-rent Bonnie and Clyde on heroin; Mel pulls off heists and deals drugs to support the habit he and Sid have acquired. They tool around in a big Cadillac El Dorado and pick up Bobbie (Vincent Kartheiser), a junkie and petty thief, and his girlfriend Rosie (Natasha Gregson Wagner). The two couples, one in their twenties and the other in their forties, join forces to rob a pharmacy, sell the drugs they steal, and then attempt a jewelry store heist. Their disastrous road trip through the Midwest makes that of Thelma and Louise look like a Grayline tour.

Another Day in Paradise is based on a novel by ex-con Eddie Little. His story owes a great deal to the work of Elmore Leonard, and director Clark brings the tale to life by employing a frighteningly realistic cinematic style. Clark's first film, *Kids*, was a bleak look at sexually promiscuous, drug-addicted Manhattan teens.



James Woods and Melanie Griffith in *Another Day in Paradise*

Tabitha Yelland

Done in a cinéma-vérité style, *Kids* was so real, it played like a documentary. Here Clark's fascination with low-lifers continues, and he resurrects the milieu that made him famous as a photographer in his *Tulsa* series — junkies and all.

Christopher Landon and Stephen Chin's script is smart and fast, and Eric Edwards' production design and Kathryn Morrison's costumes are simply perfect. They authentically recreate a '70s world of Ban-Lon knits, Marimekko prints, 8-track tapes, and flared pants. All of this plays beautifully against a slammmin' musical score of '60s and '70s soul classics, complemented by the on-screen musical appearance of Clarence Carter. The four leading actors all turn in excellent performances, with highest honors going to James Woods as the domineering loser Mel, who thinks he has it all together while his life spins out of control. It is a searingly dramatic performance that Woods controls at the perfect pitch throughout. Natasha Gregson Wagner, as the ingenue, brings an appropriately passive deer-in-headlights quality to her role as Rosie, and Vincent Kartheiser is equally effective as her earnest and self-destructive loser boyfriend.

Liplock

As Sid, Mel's aging junkie girlfriend, Melanie Griffith brings surprising intensity and intelligence to her role. But Griffith's credibility is seriously undercut by the most unnatural lip-enhancement this side of Cher. Griffith's bulbous, protruding upper lip is so wrong, so abnormal, that every time she has a close-up — and she has many — it is impossible to ignore the bizarre, unbalanced equation her face has become. This choice is not only wrong for her character, but if Griffith wants to be taken seriously as an actress, her lip-job was a very bad career move.

Griffith recently told the press that, in the making of this film, it was really helpful to her that director Larry Clark really was a junkie. This "outing" of the director as a heroin addict is supported by reports of Clark entering rehab after the film was completed. If all this is true, it would certainly explain the longstanding fixation Clark has with junkies and the urban fleabag milieu he chooses to explore. Clark certainly brings an authenticity to his work, and *Another Day in Paradise* is no exception. It's hard to imagine how anyone completely on the outside of this lifestyle could bring it to life with such clarity and objectivity.

In a curious footnote, Lou Diamond Phillips appears as Jules, a Latin queen who holds court at a local gay bar and helps arrange the jewelry store heist for Mel and Sid. For some unknown reason, Phillips' appearance in the film is unbillied. His character is both an outrageous queer boy, with studious makeup and hair, and a street-smart tough guy who talks with his fists. Phillips' strong performance is worthy of note, and the absence of screen credit is just another strange note in a curious motion picture. But Larry Clark has much to be proud of; *Another Day in Paradise* is a great film, one that just happens to be very hard to watch. ▼

Another Day in Paradise opens Friday in San Francisco.

Antonioni

◀ previous page

Cannes Film Festival, *L'Avventura* was met with screaming and stampedes, and Antonioni was written off as an annoying obscurantist. But these films' perverse brilliance, Antonioni's compelling tableaux of mysteries without end, and the luminous presence of Monica Vitti have only gained with the years.

Of his later lesser-known work, of particular interest are two ultra-rarities. *The Mystery of Oberwald*, an adaptation of Cocteau's *The Eagle Has Two Heads*, reunited Monica Vitti and Antonioni. Shot on video and transferred to film, it shows the director's color manipulations at

their most sophisticated. *Chung Kuo China* is a four-hour travelogue made in 1972 but rarely screened. Antonioni's lifelong problems with censorship reached full course here. Commissioned by the Chinese government and cheered at its finish, a year later the film was viciously denounced and banned by Cultural Revolution forces who were suddenly unhinged by the director's view of a China that, like most of the director's elusive subjects, is "seen but not known." ▼

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MUSIC

Groovy movie music

Oranj Symphonette to play Great American

by John Blanco

You've got to pity this year's Grammy voters, faced as they are with the lesser-of-two-evils choice between "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic* and "I Don't Want To Miss a Thing" from *Armageddon* in the category of Best Song Written for a Motion Picture. Clearly, the state of movie music is dire, but this wasn't the case 30 or 40 years ago. Back then, composers like Henry Mancini, John Barry, and Burt Bacharach wrote film scores containing brilliant pop songs that often became huge pop hits. Best of all, these songs were an organic part of the film's overall score, not just something tacked on to the movie's closing credits.

The local group Oranj Symphonette has more than just a passing interest in the era of the groovy movie soundtrack, to borrow a name from the much-missed KUSF radio program that spotlighted just such music. The Symphonette's 1996 debut CD was made up entirely of skewed jazz-pop instrumental covers of Henry Mancini's film and TV music from the 1960s. The group's latest release, *The Oranj Album*, features more Mancini, along with the work of various other film



Oranj Symphonette

composers from the '60s (Barry, Bacharach, Quincy Jones and Elmer Bernstein) as well as a couple of non-film-related standards from various eras (Duke Ellington's "Satin Doll" and Jimmy Webb's "Up, Up and Away").

The new CD, fortunately, has less of the self-conscious wackiness that marred *Oranj Symphonette Plays Mancini*. On that album, the band had a habit of abruptly switching styles (from jazz to rock 'n' roll) and tone (from reverent to irreverent) mid-song. Their version of "Moon River," for example, went from despondent borderline-dirge to saucy cha-cha number. Even

zanius was "Baby Elephant Gunn," a sonic dice 'n' splice of the "Baby Elephant Walk" from *Hatari* and the theme from TV's *Peter Gunn*. On this goofy hybrid, the baby elephants didn't walk, they slunk along to the Gunn theme's smoky, rhythmic backdrop.

As novelty tunes go, those songs were clever enough, but they didn't stand up to more than two or three listens. On *The Oranj Album*, the Symphonette treats the material more seriously and winds up with a far better record. The group never stoops to camp or easy irony, even when dealing with a song like "Valley of the Dolls," which has rarely been performed as lovingly (even within the confines of a drag club) as it is here. The instru-

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Off on the Grand Tour

SF Symphony is ready to dazzle Europe

by Philip Campbell

After beginning the new year with two weeks of brilliant concerts, the San Francisco Symphony and Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas departed for their most extensive European tour to date. From Dublin to Vienna, their favorable reputation will grow internationally with 16 dates in 14 cities.

Other American artists will join them along the way. Violinist Gil Shaham is set to repeat his flawless renditions of the Mendelssohn and Samuel Barber Concertos, and sopranos Dawn Upshaw and Christine Brewer are scheduled to alternate in performances of selections from Camille Saint-Saëns' *Songs of the Auvergne*.

Touring reinforces the orchestra's standing abroad, but even more importantly, encourages *esprit de corps*. Local subscribers should reap the benefits of heightened ensemble when the seasoned travelers return and, if recent weeks at Davies Hall were any indication, that sense of camaraderie is already running high.

2005. A new conflict resolution process, led by Harvard University Law Professor Robert Mnookin, is credited for this happy turn of events, and there need be no fear of the kind of acrimony (and lost revenue) incurred by the last negotiations.

Considering the complicated components and many intangibles which make a great artistic institution, San Francisco can marvel at the wonderful constellation of stars that shines upon the SFS. Provincial scribes have been timidly suggesting that we have a world-class institution for years. It doesn't need to be said anymore — it is the simple truth.

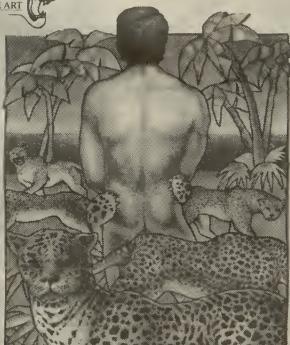
Of course, it is the shape and tone of the orchestra's performance that define the organization, and MTT has made remarkable headway in creating a "San Francisco sound." The formerly lean (read thin) string section is sounding full and lustrous, problems with pitch and attack from the horns are rare, and there is a homogeneity between sections that rivals the very best. An unmistakable pride and enthusiasm mark every concert.

Musical chairs

There have been changes in personnel, and some familiar faces are regrettably absent this season. The search also goes on for a new Concertmaster. Nadya Tichman is Acting Concertmaster and Bob

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A time for weeping

SF Opera season no cause to rejoice

by Paul Thomason

Pleurez! Pleurez mes yeux," laments the heroine of Massenet's opera *Le Cid* in one of the most heart-rending arias ever written. "Weep! Weep my eyes" is the only appropriate response when one reflects on the just-completed San Francisco Opera season. It ended as it began, with performances of a Puccini opera which brought no glory to either the company or the composer. Indeed, like much of the rest of the season, the performances should probably never have taken place.

Last week, two different casts went through their paces in a "Broadway-style" presentation of *Madama Butterfly*, by which the company means performances took place almost every night with alternating casts. This continuing obsession with Broadway meant that, once again, the very heart of opera (giving the audience a cathartic experience) was ignored in favor of having physically appealing but inadequate singers butcher Puccini's score. Can making singers be far behind?

The company reprised its production introduced during the summer 1997 "Broadway-style" run at the Golden Gate Theater which alternated four different casts in a concept-heavy, but Puccini-light presentation. In order to help audiences understand that they do not have to be afraid of opera, director Ron Daniels conceived the opera as a flashback by Butterfly and Pinkerton's grown son, a conceit that only makes sense if one already knows the opera — and thereby defeats the entire purpose of not doing the opera as the composer wrote it. Michael Yeargan's sets are visually pleasing, but the screens which divide the stage into different playing areas are pushed to and fro in a virtually nonstop attempt to keep the audience's attention from wandering. ("See, opera is fun! Look at all the neat things we can do!"

Even so, a cast with the voices to sing Puccini's music in a way that communicated its overwhelming drama could have transcended the setting. But the SFO, apparently determined to hamper



Tenor Luis Lima and soprano Sylvie Valayre in *Madama Butterfly*

its singers any way it could, engaged French conductor Emmanuel Villaume to make his US operatic debut with *Butterfly*. He was so inept, so lacking in leadership or understanding that the singers and the orchestra were to work together, that he actually made me long for Steven Mercurio's bumbling in the pit.

Many of the first cast in this run were veterans of the Golden Gate Theater *Butterfly*. Their second performance on January 12 was solid, workman-like, and would not have been out of place in, say, Knoxville or Omaha. In the title role, Sylvie Valayre displayed a healthy, solid voice of little beauty (to these ears) but was unable to dominate the part, though she often carefully molded her phrases. Luis Lima, who has often done superb work at the War Memorial, seemed to be having an off night afflicted with shaky, off-pitch singing. Only two singers were thoroughly at one with their parts: Zheng Cao, who was almost overwhelming in her mastery of Suzuki, and Adler Fellow Karen Ferguson, who was such an appealing Kate I long to hear again.

"I Love Suzuki"

Most of the principals of cast number two were making their SFO debuts. On the basis of their work on January 10, none of them, with the exception of Grant Youngblood, who was a solid Sharpless, should ever be invited back. (The audience, however, gave them a standing ovation.) Headed by a Cio-Cio-San (Isabelle Kabatu) who shrieked monotonously at the top of her voice all evening and seemed to think "acting" meant doing a bad imitation of Leonie Rysanek at her

(James Cornelison) who would have been over-parted as Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *My Fair Lady*, and a Suzuki (Wendy White) who seemed to think she was on *I Love Lucy*, the results were one of the worst performances of an opera I have seen in over three decades. "What can the San Francisco Opera be thinking?" I kept asking myself.

That is a question that has haunted operagoers all year. How could a once-great, internationally respected company turn into a bad joke? The ten operas presented this season yielded about ten individual performances that were truly of an international level — a level at which the SFO ought to be operating constantly. Certainly any theater will have an occasional season dogged by bad luck. Singers get ill or cancel for other reasons, casts occasionally simply do not gel, a production that looked ravishing on paper loses its magic when built and put on stage.

But this year the SFO based a season around second-, third- and fourth-raters, blithely ignoring the scores of strong singers who were available. For every riveting portrayal — James Morris as Philip in *Don Carlo*, Renée Fleming, Elizabeth Futral and Anthony Dean Griffey in *Streetcar Named Desire*, Violetta Urmana as Brangäne in *Tristan*, Mary Mills as Zdenka in *Arabella* or Larissa Diadkova in *Betrothal in a Monastery* — there were three or four others who should never have been put on stage.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish," it says in the Bible. San Francisco Opera's most recent season is proof of that, and opera lovers can only weep, and pray that those who *can* make a difference will do so. Or is it too late? ▀

Grand Tour

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Ward is Acting Principal Horn. For the European tour, Ilya Kaler of the Rochester Philharmonic will be seated as First Chair. He has performed here admirably for the latest concerts, which have included virtually all of the repertoire for the road shows. Hardly a glamorous figure onstage, he nonetheless has helped ensure the success of the renditions, and at least Viennese audiences will not have to face a woman in that all-important position.

It is not clear whether or not Kaler will win the job as First

Chair, and there are more than a few who think Tichman should get it, but we can trust MTT to make his decision based solely on merit. The maestro obviously believes he deserves it.

holds high regard for both. If the orchestra continues on the crest of their partnership with Tilson Thomas throughout the tour, European audiences are in for one hell of a ride. The recent performances of the Fifth Symphonies of Mahler and Prokofiev will anchor two programs. They are MTT country through and through — big, detailed and warmly expressive, with the sonorities carefully disciplined for maximum effect.

next page ►

MUSIC

Big Ben strikes

Heldentenor Ben Heppner in Berkeley

by Timothy Pfaff

Ben Heppner's recital for Cal Performances last Thursday marked the first time in my experience that the audience sang for the performer. Late in the evening, Heppner offered, "This is a great way to spend your birthday," or something to that effect (he turned 43), and what seemed like seconds later his accompanist, the superb Craig Rutenberg, plunked out the familiar chords and Heppner's adoring audience serenaded him with a robust "Happy Birthday" that included some bumptious harmonies and high-flying, faux-operatic descants.

There could be no doubt that the tribute was genuine. This clearly was an audience that would have thrown itself in front of traffic for this lumbering bear of an opera star, and not without reason. It's been clear for more than a decade that Heppner is one of the most important singers treading the boards today, not only for the obvious assets of his

disciplined, clarion voice, but for the critical role he plays as the day's finest exemplar of an endangered operatic subspecies. This is a no-doubt-about-it Heldentenor in an age when there may not be another. There are operas — Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* conspicuous among them — that soon may be unstageable without him, and the mere fact that he is sniffing around the territory of the Ring's Siegfried is probably keeping major opera impresarios from opening a vein.

He's also a serious, intelligent, sympathetic artist with more than vocal brawn to offer. He seems thoughtful and careful about the roles he undertakes and notably conscientious about his preparation of them. The opera world needs this guy like the planet needs oxygen.

It's particularly alarming, then, when he hands in a performance as troubled and troubling as Thursday's. For unaccountable but generally propitious reasons, his recital was moved from Zellerbach Hall to the considerably more intimate Hertz Hall, a

wood-lined, 800-seat auditorium with live but warm acoustics that has always been one of the Bay Area's overall best musical venues. But on the evidence of Heppner's belting, one might have thought it was the outdoor Arena in Verona. As my friend Aaron commented at intermission, "I kept waiting for the other two tenors to come out."

Full throttle

The recital was as big as the tenor, his reputation, and his promise — but too big by half for his program. As Renée Fleming's Zellerbach recital the previous weekend (Cal Performances is on a roll here) demonstrated, it can be illuminating to hear an opera singer in a song recital with a tantalizing repertoire. (Heppner's only operatic offering, the tenor's big aria from *Andrea Chenier*, was an encore.) Unfortunately, the tenor's outsized approach to his material — there hasn't been as inflated a performance of Lieder in the area since the potato-salad days of Jessye Norman — did little more than cloud the picture of this estimable artist. It's fun to hear a voice of this quality at full throttle for a few minutes at a time. Over two hours it turns into ear-bashing.

It wasn't just a matter of the singer's failure to scale his mammoth voice to Hertz Hall dimensions. There's been some roof-raising singing in Hertz before, and the hall can handle it. Hepp-



Ben Heppner

sounded dry and reluctant to open. But open it did in three of Liszt's Petrarchan Sonnets, and things got pretty drafty. This is big music, no doubt about that, and at first Heppner seemed to have taken its measure and found his footing. But by the second climax of the first sonnet, "Pace non trovo," his voice broke for the first of what would be many times.

Richard Strauss' Op. 27 songs suffered worst, the delicate, yearning "Morgen," sung at a glacially slow tempo, emerging syllabic, flat and empty. Somewhere in the set of six Rachmaninov songs, Heppner confided that he didn't speak Russian, which was amply evident despite his careful diction, but it turned out he didn't speak Rachmaninov, either. Even the plaintive beauties of "Do not sing, my beauty, to me," Op. 4, No. 4, seemed strained, and battered by the non-stop belting. By that point, the sentiments of the title seemed particularly piquant.

The last Heldentenor to weigh in on Lieder with comparable power was, ironically, a fellow Canadian, Jon Vickers, who intermittently took Schubert's *Winterreise* on the road, made a long evening and heavy weather of it — and burned the piece onto his listeners' souls with the sheer intensity of his involvement with the songs. Heppner, by comparison, merely hectored.

No one should have to work on their birthday. ▼

Oranj

◀ page 43

mentation is kept fairly simple on the Symphonette's "Dolls." The dark, somber strains of a cello set the mood before accordionist Rob Burger steps in to wring tears from the melody. Even more beautiful and spare is the group's rendition of John Barry's "Midnight Cowboy" theme, which consists simply of the plaintive, echo-drenched guitar work of Symphonettist Joe Gore.

The minimalism of those songs is definitely the exception on a CD full of lush, grandly-scaled instruments. Elmer Bernstein's "The Magnificent Seven" theme is tricked out with guitar, clarinet and accordion solos, but the band manages to keep the song so tight and tuneful that none of the flourishes seem like overkill. The fullest arrangement and biggest sound on the record can be found on the band's version of the "They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!" theme, where one Symphonettist alone, Ralph Carney, plays flute, Turkish clarinet, baritone sax, slide whistle and duck call. Those instruments combine with a half-dozen or so others to form a sweeping,

but surprisingly never overblown, jazz-funk sound.

They Call Me MISTER Tibbs! is a middling crime drama that's not at all worthy of Quincy Jones' sexy, dynamic music. But this record proves that sometimes the most obscure or rightfully forgotten films have the best scores. One of the standout tracks on *The Oranj Album* is the theme from a B-grade British potboiler called *Beat Girl*. The film features one of the earliest scores by the future composer of "Goldfinger" and other classic James Bond themes, John Barry. The "Beat Girl" theme — a frenetic bit of early '60s rock 'n' roll, fueled by crisp drumming and squealing sax — gives the Symphonette the opportunity to really cut loose. When it was released in the US, *Beat Girl* was retitled *Wild for Kicks*, which is a much better description of the film's theme song. This isn't a tune that makes you want to coolly snap your fingers, but rather jump up on a bar stool and shimmy like your life depended on it. ▼

Oranj Symphonette performs at The Great American Music Hall Sat., Jan. 23 at 9 p.m. For information, call 885-0750.

Grand Tour

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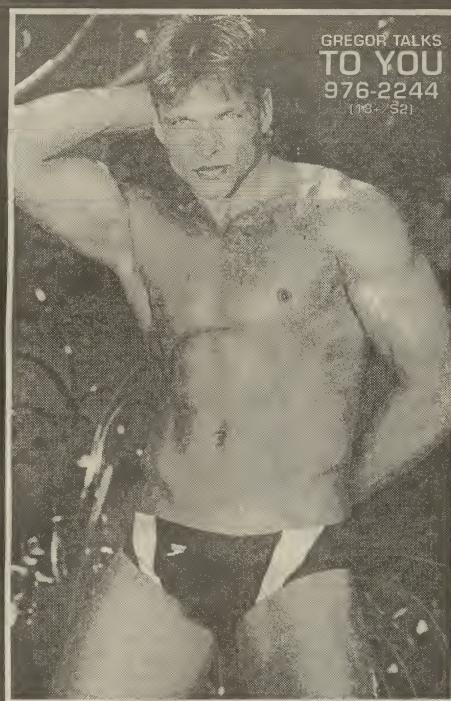
ham's bold and sweet-toned Mendelssohn Concerto and the Mahler Fifth will impress more conservative listeners while reminding them of Mahler's audacity. Cheers and standing ovations that began here are sure to be repeated abroad.

The 20th-century scores heard most recently at Davies are another traveling showcase. From the haunting evocations and rollicking dissonances of Charles Ives' *Three Places in New England* to the monumental bombast, swelling melodies and acerbic wit of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, Program Two should be a big hit with more adventurous crowds. Leonard Bernstein's Suite from *A Quiet Place* is included, and this is another

composer close to MTT's heart and soul. The beloved Lenny's arrangement made from his underestimated opera has a jazzy Big Band core, surrounded by music of almost vulgar sentimentality, but the ultimate effect is truly moving.

Rock group Metallica and composer Michael Kamen held a press conference recently to announce a proposed collaboration with the San Francisco Symphony. They will not be on the European tour and we will withhold judgment until the project is completed, but we will venture a statement that such public relations strategies are hardly necessary to bolster the argument that the SFS is a happening institution. If our neighbors across the Atlantic don't respond to the kind of excellence and excitement we are learning to expect from Michael Tilson Thomas, it will simply be a case of envy. ▼

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Canadian wins Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest

by Mister Marcus

For only the second time in 15 years, the winner of the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather (MAL) title was won by a Canadian leather man. This time, the winner hails from Ottawa, the capital of our northern neighbor. Mr. Leather/Cuir Ottawa, Hull Dean Ross, sponsored by the Ottawa Knights, managed to win out over 13 other contestants last Sunday, January 17 at Tracks in Washington, D.C., the cavernous home of MAL for the past nine years.

Nearly 2,000 men and women of the leather persuasion cheered lustily as the announcement was made at almost 1600 hours, following a sumptuous brunch catered by Solomon's Table.

The first runner-up was Austin Masters of Los Angeles, while the second runner-up was Mark Innocenzi from Dickson City, Pennsylvania.

It was another one of those scintillating leather events where all the big *kahunas* from the leather world were in attendance. Among those present was Rob Scheers, Mr. Leather and Mr. Drummer Europe. Shortly after Rob arrived, International Mr. Drummer Hervé Bernard swept in, looking suave in leather that raised eyebrows all over the place. He could be a model for anything he wears!

The judging panel, headed by outgoing MAL Tony Mills (also IML '98) was made up of incredibly knowledgeable leathermen who put the contestants through all the contest paces. Among the panelists were IML Den Manna Joanne Gaddy, IML '92 Lenny Broberg, LA&M Executive Director Joseph Bean, IMLs. Megan De-

Bazaar

Every title-holder on hand was presented onstage, and nearly 200 of them were cheered

by their adoring fans. Everyone from Mr. Dog Bottom of Lubbock Texas to Mr. Red Lobster Bottom of Chataqua, Maine got a chance to get up there, strut their stuff, and bow graciously. It was quite a sight!

After all the protocol stuff was out of the way, the full members, associates, and groupie Centaurs were introduced. Then came the swearing in of the new officers for the coming year. The elaborate ceremony, with candle-lighting by each new board member, is always a moving scene.

Longtime member and former president (for more terms than

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 21

Mr. February 2000 on the bare chest calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse, 2130. Judges Lenny Broberg, Queen Cougar and Frank Parker will pick the winner. Win \$100, passes to Blow Buddies, and more.

Leather Daddy's Boy Todd Kepus hosts a \$7 benefit beerbust and spanking auction (only \$1 per swat), with a 50/50 raffle to benefit AIDS Emergency Fund.

Bear Movie Night @ the Lone Star, showing "Animal House" and holding a toga party. \$5 beerbust with toga; \$8 without. A John Caldera production.

Weekend January 22-24

In San Jose, "Clash of the Leather Titans" leather weekend with the selection of Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara Co. Leather 1999. You don't have to wear a costume to the "Ancient Deity or Mythic Being" at the Circus Maximus on Friday + wear your leathers! Saturday night is the contest, but during the day there's a marketplace, forums and workshops. Sunday is a nectar and ambrosia victory brunch. For details call (408) 934-9137 or email SCCLeather@aol.com, or check out their website by clicking on <http://members.aol.com/SCCLeather>.

Saturday, January 23

The GDIs celebrate their 25th anniversary at the SoMar Theater from 1930-2230 by invite, with J.J. VanDyke emceeing this auspicious occasion. The 15 Association January play party with

doors open from 2100-2300. \$10 donation. BYOB. Guest must arrive with you. Call 673-0542 for location & invite.

Stop AIDS Project beerbust @ Daddy's, 1500-1800, for \$7 with raffles and prizes for dinners, opera tickets, and entertainment by Donna Sachet.

Sunday, January 24

Todd Kepus hosts a \$7 beerbust @ Daddy's to benefit LYRIC, with raffles, prizes and surprises.

Masters and slaves Together (MAST) gather at the Eagle at 1530 — no meeting, just a get-together with their friends and members.

Golden Gate Guards MC beerbust @ the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1800, but no price given at my deadline. Always fun at the Lone Star.

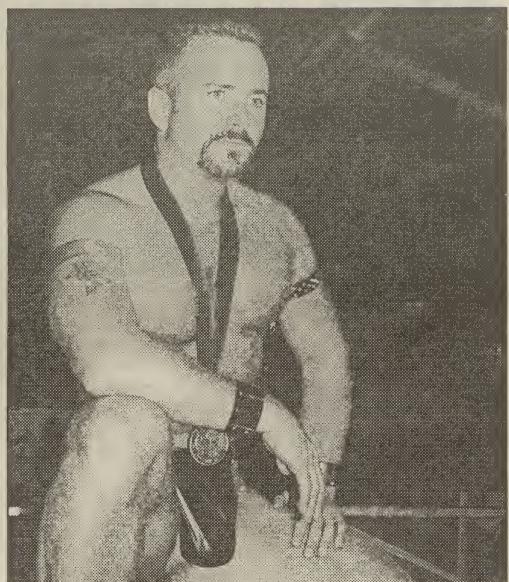
Wednesday, January 27

The first Leather Buddies party of the year, at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: boots mandatory, no cologne, no sneakers, no attitude. You WILL be sniffed before entering. Doors open 2100-2300. For info, call 863-HEAD.

Saturday, January 30

Billy Lane steps aside and bestows the sash to his successor at the Mr. Seattle Leather Contest tonight at Neighbours club in Seattle. Doors open at 1900 and let me say, "Thanks, Billy! You did us proud!"

Constantines MC beer bust @ Daddy's, 1500-1900, to benefit Sunday brunches at SF General, for only \$7.



Mister Marcus

Dean Ross of Ottawa, Canada, won the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather title last Sunday, Jan. 17 in Washington, DC. He beat out 13 other men.

PORN

Halfway homos

by John F. Karr

Studio 2000 touts each of their Exclusive Discoveries' big dicks so loudly, you'd think personal absolution was to be found in its contemplation. And maybe it is, if you have a taste for the company's vanilla specials. This time out, the new star is Tony Donovan, and the last name he's been given announces his appendage by linking him to former big-dicked Donovans Rick and Chad. The video is *Getting Straight*, and I'm tickled by it. Not so much for Donovan's contribution to it, or even for its intermittently agreeable sex, but most especially for the droll stab at social realism of its connecting device. *Getting Straight* is set in, of all places, a halfway house. But hardly a nighttime lock-up for juvenile offenders, this is a home for nice boys who, as a narrative scroll announces, are caught between unaccepting parents and "the reality of life on the mean streets." It's a wistful idea, this coming out zone, where the boys can learn a skill like preparing meals or cleaning the stables, and have sex with the other guys all day long without any parental naysaying or peer put-down.

Did I say stables? Yes, this halfway house is no inner-city commune furnished with worn cast-offs, but a bucolic hacienda sprawling over landscaped grounds. It has a pool and a billiard room, as well as the aforementioned stables, where our hero, after much deliberation and delay, first knows man-to-man sex.

In the video's first two scenes, Donovan spurns invitations to have sex with the other guys. His truculent attitude masks tender affections and builds up to his Big Moment, which, when it comes, is

pretty good. Video director Derek Kent has thoughtfully coached the performers in visual niceties, and his film indulges in some all-too-rare foreplay. Donovan, giving underwear enthusiasts and basket fanciers a big thrill, teases his partner by flourishing the big bulge in his jockey shorts, pulling the sides taut to accentuate the already positive. Most porn won't pause for this sort of fillip, and I liked it a lot. His partner proves agile, and there's an especially rousing section where they do it through the railings of a fence. But for most of the scene, things are more documentary than electric. Still, things are big, and we're told by all the experts, that's what matters.

I found matters more enticing with other members of the cast, who are the thin, regular kind of kids you see on the cover of XY magazine. Their sex is efficient, sometimes urgent, always vanilla. Shane Flanigan is a high-spirited cupcake, but seen only minimally during a four-way. Gaunt Eric Star's high cheekbones hint at some sophistication. I was most enamored of Kristian Brooks, a dappled lad with a sunny disposition and a creamy cock that rears up in classic satyr fashion. Brooks uses his solid cock to flirt with Ethan Marc's asshole, and such cunning cocksmanship makes his scene effective. His entry is niftily caught; his hip-thrusts are strong and full-length, and his orgasm is as long a surprise as his dick. Second-billed Ethan Marc's doughboy body is eclipsed by the kind of dick that goes "sproing!"

The new star Donovan could



pass for a Backstreet Boy, with sandy hair and a manly set to his features. Although basically a lackluster performer, he's graced with an admirable fucking technique, and the really big tool to fulfill it. Deployed in long and slow plunges of surprising finesse, Donovan's cock is a projectile hammer, sporting a uniquely downturned head, like the nose of a Concorde jet. It's not what I would call either a pretty dick or even a star's dick. That's the one you'll find on Scott Lyon, a boyish blonde whose lovely cock has heft, smooth contours, and admirable hardness. I wish his appearance wasn't so brief.

You'll have to tune out the endlessly repeated piece of music, which turns to muzak before embalming scenes whole. Under its narcotizing affect, you might miss the video's finale, where Donovan's cock and Marc's ass are a transfiguring match. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

anyone can remember) John Rocco was bid a fond farewell because of his move back to his home city, Philadelphia, where he will rejoin his home club The Philadelphians MC. And Ken Doubler, long one of the chairman of the MAL contest, has made his move to Sharpsburg, Georgia. The loss of these two men, while traumatic for the CMC, will not hinder the progress made already made by new blood — the five Centaur babies who will soon assume their roles as full-fledged contributors to the club's future. The new officers are President Steve Kenny, VP Glen Mlaker, Treasurer Jim Raymond, Corresponding Secretary John Bonnage, Recording Secretary Phil Spenceley, and Centurion Mel Jacobs. The Road Captain is George Seidel. The Tribune is Tracy Dryden. The new group has dynamite plans for the coming year, and MAL 2000 is already in the working stage.

An added attraction to MAL '99, sure to become an annual event, was the Backlash Dance on Saturday night following Leather Cocktails, held at The Edge complex. This was a benefit for the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago, with the entire profit earmarked for the LA&M. The event raised more than \$4,000, with the Centaurs adding another \$2,500 as seed money for next year's event. The crowd went wild and Joseph Bean was overwhelmed by the largesse of the



The Mid-Atlantic Leather winners at Tracks in Washington, DC last Sunday, Jan. 17 were (L. to R.) Austin Masters, 1st runner-up; Dean Ross, MAL '99; and Mark Innocenzi, 2nd runner-up.

Centaurs. The Backlash Dance saw almost a thousand leather people sweating, gyrating and enjoying the night. Hey, they loved it!

Earlier Saturday night, those spiffy Men of Discipline, DC Chapter, celebrated their fourth anniversary at the DC Eagle with a St. Sebastian piercing ceremony; they announced that their next chapter of MOD will be in none other than San Francisco! (news to me, but also a scoop!)

Exactly who those members will be is a closely guarded secret at this point in time. Other cities will be initiated sometime in the future. The Men of Discipline make you take notice and get the genuine feeling of leather pride no matter where you see them!

As usual, the Centaurs MC went out of their way to make everyone comfortable. No request was denied within reason and the bus service transporting almost

2,000 people from venue to venue was incredibly efficient. The San Francisco Municipal Railway could learn something from this group! Volunteer bus coordinator Richard Miller did an outstanding job.

At Leather Cocktails on Saturday night, the food was out of this world, and the Sunday brunch just before the contest proved to be of gourmet quality. The Centaurs certainly know how to throw a party! As I was trying to get this column written, I could see almost a dozen applications lying on the desk, each paid in advance for MAL 2000. I predict this will be a major, major event. Don't get left out! Order now by phone: 1-800-494-TIXS. Next year, the weekend package will be \$79 — a bargain now matter how you look at it. Ask anyone who's been to MAL. It so good, they'll carry you here on their back! ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



GLAMA award winning musician SONiA plays selections from her new album, *Almost Chocolate*, at Noe Valley Ministry. See Friday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Hard audition

Like Alice falling into Wonderland, some of you porn dogs could, merely by displaying your, um, talents, suddenly find yourselves in wet dreamland, getting it on in real life with the biggest dick in the land, the famously endowed Jeff Stryker. All you have to do is bare your assets and try out for a role in the upcoming stage production at the Victoria Theatre, *Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time*.

What kind of role might you play? First you should know the "play," which enjoyed a successful run in Los Angeles and then toured the U.S., Europe, and Australia, is described as "a dark and sexy prison comedy that takes the audience into the depth of prison life to witness the animalistic behavior of men behind bars." It contains full nudity, strong language, and sexual situations, and according to show's throbbing publicity release, "Stryker is sure to leave you breathless, as will his talented, all-male cast of sexy prisoners!"

Sound like your kind of work? Then perhaps you can see yourself in one of the following non-union "acting" roles:

Billy, age 20-25, cool, quiet, rehab druggie inmate. Must be in good shape (height 5'8" or shorter). [I'm thinking Greg Taylor for the part. . . Oh, they said *quiet*.]

Pretty Boy, age 18-25, straight, handsome, punk prison inmate, stud puppy. Must be in good shape (height 5'8" or shorter). [Josh Puckett, but he's doing hard time elsewhere.]

Prison Guard #1, age 25-30, rugged, self serving straight role. [Supervisor Gavin Newsom, though he looks too young. Mark McGwire could definitely step up to bat.]

Prison Guard #2, age 25-30, rugged, self-serving, could be character type. Flair for comedy. [David Mills or Tim Miller. Elvis Herschel could pass.]

Bruno, age 25-30, rough, hard prison inmate, could be Afro American, tuff guy who eventually mellows. [Clearly a job for the indomitable Joan Jett-Blakk.]

Queenie, age 23-30, gay queen prison inmate, nellie, campy. [How about Tom Ammiano? A slathering of makeup could make him look decades younger.] ▼



Jeff Stryker wants YOU!

Auditions for *Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time* will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, January 23. For time and place, call (415) 282-7481. Performances take place Feb. 11 - March 7.

Fri 22

Noe Valley Ministry

SONiA (Sonja Riststein), winner of the most recent GLAMA award (presented by k.d. Lang) and for 10 years part of the hit duo Disappear Fear performs selections from her new solo album, *Almost Chocolate* (Philo/Rounder Records). She has received rave reviews from Acoustic Guitar and other music magazines. Opening the show is local singer-songwriter Steve Seskin. \$12 adv./\$14 door. 8:15pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). (415) 454-5238.

Dance Mission Theatre

Dance Brigade/Wicked Witch Productions presents the premiere of *Queen of Sheba*, a solo dance drama written, choreographed and performed by Krissy Keeler, Artistic Director of Dance Mission Theatre. Her piece explores pre-patriarchal myth, the female body, gender, contemporary life, and the female prophetic voice. \$12 advance; \$14 door. 8pm. Also on 1/23, 24, 29, 30, and 2/2 (showtimes vary). 3316 24th St. (near Mission). 522-8793.

The Mexican Museum

Opening reception: "A Precarious Comfort" (*Una comodidad precaria*), featuring the work of Patsi Valdez. Join for an evening of art, food, and drink, with live music by the Josh Jones Latin Jazz Ensemble. Free. Fort Mason Center, Building D. Info: 441-0404.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

The Kinsey Sicks, the renowned "dragapella" beauty shop quartet, perform "The Kinsey Sicks: Greatest Tits," a new twist on their unmistakable harmonies, unforgettable comedy, and unspeakable fashion sense. \$16 (\$20 Fri. & Sat.). 8pm. Thru 2/4. 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Cowell Theater

New Shoes, Old Souls, a dance company founded in 1993 by Linda Rawlings to sustain and celebrate dancers over 40, presents five world dance premieres, including a new work by Mark Morris. Also featured are dances by Bay Area choreographers Carlos Carvalha, Cecilia Marta, Priscilla Regalado, and Michael Smuin. \$20 & \$25. 8pm. Thru 1/23. Fort Mason, Buchanan St. & Marina Blvd. Tix: Fort Mason Center Box Office; 441-3687.

Magic Theatre

World premiere of Neena Beber's "A Common Vision," a romantic comedy in which Cupid slings arrows in all the wrong directions, causing six restless characters to collide. Directed by



Little Girl in Yellow Dress, 1995, acrylic on canvas, part of an exhibit by Patssi Valdez at The Mexican Museum. See Friday.

Mary Coleman, Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan. 441-8822.

Scott's Garden, Walnut Creek

Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) gay men's social organization holds its first East Bay TGIF social gathering (to be held hereafter on the fourth Friday of each month). The non-partisan, membership-supported group strives to support a positive identity in the gay community through social, travel, philanthropic, athletic and educational activities. 6-9pm. 1333 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Info: (415) 442-1994.

Ashkenaz, Berkeley

Davis-based lesbian musician Diane Patterson performs "revolutionary dance music" with Clan Dyken. \$8. 9pm. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054.

Sat 23

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening: *The Lisbon Traviata*, a play by Terrence McNally, directed by Arturo Catricala. The plot veers from high comedy to stark tragedy as the play follows the troubled course of a gay relationship, using an obsession with grand opera as a metaphor underscoring larger-than-life passions. Thru 3/6. 25 Van Ness Ave., Lower Lobby. Tix/info: 861-8972.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Continuing run: *10 Naked Men*, a play by Ronnie Larson (author of *Making Porn*), about capitalism and the Hollywood hustle. Set in the buy-and-sell world of Tinseltown, where actors, agents, hustlers, and whores all battle for love and the ultimate deal. Nudity reigns on stage. \$15-\$25. 5pm & 8pm. Thru 2/14. 2926 16th St. Tix: 861-5079.

Lorraine Hansberry Theater

Gala celebration and performance. Cultural Odyssey presents The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women in *Slouching Towards Armageddon: A Captive's Conversation/Observation on Race*, conceived and directed by Rhodessa Jones. \$15-\$25. 8pm. Thru 1/31. 620 Sutter St. (at Mason). Tix: Theater Artaud Box Office, 450 Florida St. (Tues.-Sat., 1-6pm); phone 621-7797. Also at BASS Ticket Centers: (510) 762-BASS.

Magic Theatre

"Perverts Put Out!" a benefit for *Black Sheets*, the hot and humorous zine of queer sex and underground culture, edited by Bill Brent. Hear

erotic writers/performers hold forth on everyone's favorite topic. An evening of polysexual fun featuring Thomas Roche, M. Christian, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Bill Brent, Bryce Travis, ferret, and others reading and acting out their charming smut. \$10-\$20 sliding (no one strip-searched — unwillingly — for lack of funds). 8pm sharp. 848 Divisadero. Reservations: 431-0171.

Fort Mason

"Celebrating Women's Strength," a free, 3.5 hours-long self-defense workshop put together and taught by women (three local Wing Tsun kung fu instructors) for women (no experience necessary; any age or fitness level welcome). Watch, train, discover, learn, have fun. 1pm-4:30pm. Fort Mason Center, Landmark Bldg. C, 2nd floor, room C260. Info./RSVP: 474-2664.

Tse Chen Ling Center

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Meditation. Join others with little or no meditation practice. Begins with a 10-minute intro, followed by two short guided meditation sessions. Open to all. Free (donations welcome). 9am. Tse Chen Ling Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies, 4 Joost Ave. (near Glen Park BART). 339-8002.

AWD Studios

Copper Wimmin, an a cappella trio, celebrates the debut of their new album, *American Tyranny*, blending intricate rhythms and harmonies with strong political lyrics. Opening the show is singer, songwriter and guitarist Dragonfly. 8pm. 285 Shipyards (btwn. Folsom & Harrison at 6th St.). Reservations: 777-2AWD.

Herbst Theatre

The Women's Philharmonic, under the direction of artistic director and conductor Apo Hsu, presents the world premiere of *Three Women (Queen, Mistress, Slave)* by Thea Musgrave. It portrays three historical women, Mary, Queen of Scots, Manuela Sáenz (mistress of Simon Bolívar), and Harriet Tubman. Featuring soprano Amy Johnson and narrator Vonetta McGee. Also *Rúah* by Judith Shatin. Preceded (at 7pm) by conversations with the conductor and guest artists. \$20-\$35. 8pm. War Memorial Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. 392-4400.

Noe Valley Ministry

Live music performance by Noe Venable's Trap Door, with Tom Meshinek on guitar and Alan Lin on violin. Also playing: Monica Pasqual. 8pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Sun 24

Clos Pegase Winery, Calistoga

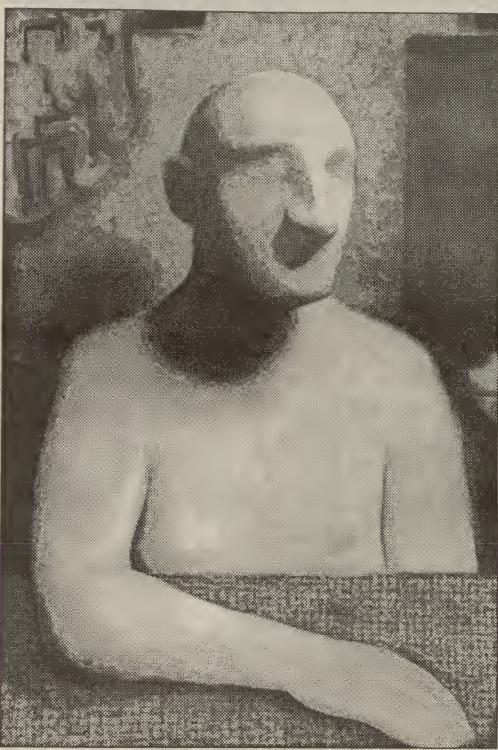
"The Art of Giving, The Giving of Art," Napa's 2nd annual art auction to benefit Napa Valley AIDS service organizations and the Arts Council of Napa Valley. The auction begins at 2pm in the winery's beautiful cave theater. While viewing and bidding on works donated by some of Northern California's most talented artists, guests will enjoy music by guitarist Doug House, refreshments by Clos Pegase, Grgich Cellars, and Crystal Geyser, along with appetizers from select Napa Valley restaurants and caterers. Bidding closes at 4:30pm. \$25 donation requested at door (applied toward any successful bid). Info: 707-257-8686.

Plush Room

Singer Willis Moore, a regular in the New York City cabaret scene, returns to the Bay Area with Musical Director Christopher Winslow in a new evening of music, "Simple." The evening features songs by Rodgers & Hart, Jerome Kern, Carole King, James Taylor, Michel Legrand and others. \$15. 7:30pm. Also on 1/31 & 2/7. 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Reservations: 885-2800.

Venue 9

"Sweet Parody," a solo cabaret revue starring Tom Orr, creator of "Dirty Little Showtunes!" Orr takes classic Broadway songs and brazenly reclaims them for the queer community. Musical direction and accompaniment by Birdie-Bobb Watt; choreography by Joe Landini. \$12 (\$10 students/seniors). 8pm. Sundays & Mondays thru 2/1. 252 9th St. (btwn Howard & Folsom). 289-2000.



Jimmy's Bent Quarter by John Bonick, part of an art auction at Clos Pegase Winery in Calistoga, benefitting Napa Valley AIDS service organizations. See Sunday.

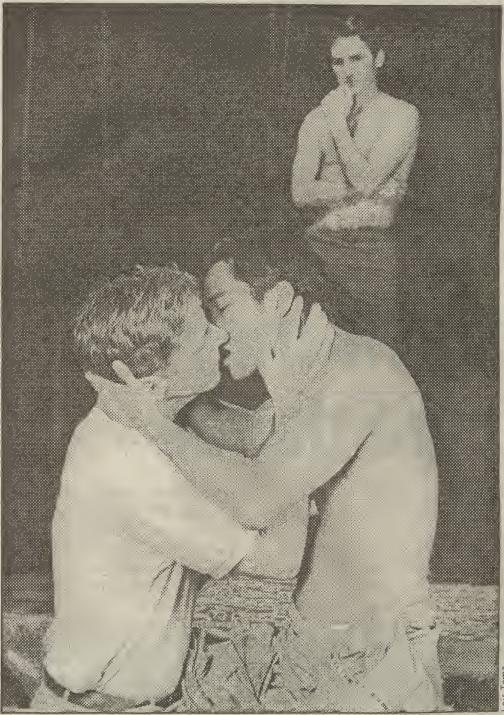
SF Cinematheque

Double feature: *Mothra* (Japan, 1961) and *Them!* (1954). Screened in conjunction with "THEM: An Exhibition of Artists, Scientists and Designers Concerned with the Entomological Universe" (SomArts Gallery, thru 1/30). Inoshiro Honda's *Mothra* depicts insectoid revenge on Tokyo, and Gordon Douglas' *Them!* (starring James Whitmore, James Arness, and Fess Parker) has radioactive ants emerging from Los Angeles sewers. \$7 (\$3.50 students/seniors, the disabled, & Cinematheque members). *Mothra* shows @ 7:30pm, *Them!* @ 9:30pm. San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. 558-8129.

Mon 25

SF Ballet

Opening night gala: 12 ballets showcasing the principal dancers in a



Greg Hoffman and Terrence Young lock lips as Kirk Mills looks on in *The Lisbon Traviata* at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Saturday.

Info: 864-6347.

A Different Light

Ken Yeager reads from his new book, *Trailblazers: Profiles of America's Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Tue 26

City College/ Everett Middle School

Class begins: "Issues in Lesbian Relationships" with instructor Lindy McKnight. Meets every Tuesday thru 5/25. Register on site or in advance at City College of San Francisco. \$47 fee. 6:30-9:30pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. (at 17th). Info: 239-3876.

Footloose @ Venue 9

Women's Work Tuesday presents Molly Rose (solo dance), Marjorie Kreitman (solo performance) and Hope Singsen (collage of poetry, theater, and song). \$6-\$10. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). 289-2000.

Great American Music Hall

Drummer Bill Bruford leads his British jazz quartet, Earthworks. Bruford has spent nearly 20 years on the cutting edge of modern rock percussion during his tenure with major rock groups Yes and King Crimson. He formed Earthworks in 1986 as a deliberate return to his roots in jazz. With him are keyboardist and tenor horn player Django Bates and saxophonist Iain Ballamy. 859 O'Farrell St. 885-0750.

Wed 27

A Different Light

Alix Olson reads from *Only the Starving Favor Peace*. Olson is a member of the 2998 Nuyorican National Champion Poetry Slam Team and a well-known voice in New York's writer's community. Free. 7:30pm.

Yerba Buena Center

The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival presents *Everything's Fine* (1997; 97 minutes), a stirring, sarcastic musical with an incisive point of view on Jewish life in post-Soviet Ukraine, punctuated by off-beat Yiddish musical performances and interviews with Jewish artists, historians, and working people. The engagingly eccentric soundtrack makes you want to sing along. \$6 (\$5 students/seniors). 8pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at Third). 978-ARTS.

Slim's

The New Radicals, headed by lanky young singer/songwriter Gregg Alexander, perform the feel-good commercial pop tunes from their debut album, *Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too?* (MCA Records). Their style, a rip-off of the '80s pop group World Party, is pure vanilla, but at least Alexander looks cute in the latest skateboard boy, mall-rat outfit. \$8 advance; \$10 door. 8pm (door opens 7pm). 333 11th St. Info: 522-0333. Tix online: www.ticketweb.com; by phone: (510) 762-BASS.

Thu 28

The Writing Salon

Class begins: "Writing Erotica" (for men only), a five-week course led by *Black Sheets* editor Bill Brent. \$150 fee. Class meets every other week, 7-9:30pm. San Francisco location (Bernal Heights). Info: 642-9793.

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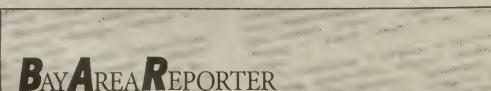
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Trockadero

◀ Arts cover

of the Trockadero's lowest point is as masterful as it is succinct.

"Three things combined to cause the crisis. AIDS, the end of the dance boom, and the NEA situation. Nobody wants to talk about AIDS, but it was a major factor. We had no tools for dealing with it. Not only did our star dancers, Sanson Candelaria and William Zamora, get sick, but stress and fear paralyzed the company just as it did society. When you have a troupe of 10 dancers and half of them are sick, you're in trouble. There were no replacements for a brilliant dancer like Sanson [who performed under the *nom de danse* Tamara Boumbyeva].

"When I first joined the Trocks, I was at the end of my dancing career. People warned me it was a dead end, career death. Now, with the '90s attitude, we get these 19-year-olds, just out of school. They are young and strong and can dance on pointe and do the traditional female steps before they even get here. They don't think it's a stigma to be a Trock; they are eager to perform. Not only is the technical level much higher than ever, but it's now not such a struggle to replace dancers."

The second problem was that the Trockadero's low point coincided with the end of the dance boom. Yes, we had trouble, but dozens of other companies went out of business altogether. We had fewer bookings, less interested audiences, people who didn't get the in-jokes because they weren't used to seeing real classical dance any more.

"Our standards fell because we couldn't afford outside choreographers to challenge our dancers. The staff people were working hard but doing too much that was repetitive. Betteanne Terrell, who was ballet mistress then, constructed *Pharaoh's Daughter* [an hysterical, historical approximation of a forgotten ballet by Marius Petipa, choreographer of *Swan Lake*]. We've thought about reviving it, but at the time it was dependent on Sanson as the star. When he got sick, no one could replace him."

It also seemed to me, as a seri-

ous fan of the Trocks since their inception, that musicalological jokes such as *Pharaoh's Daughter* were countered with too much sloppy pratfalling in the classics. Dobrin agrees. "Right. When we weren't dancing well technically because of illness, overwork and stress, we tended to lapse into slapstick. And though the Trockadero ideal has always been to entertain an audience, we realize that traditional Russian belles is being lost, and we do try to keep it alive."

"In England, someone remarked that with the Bolshoi and Kirov in crisis, Trockadero may be the last place to see the unadulterated 19th-century style. We are die-hard romantics, and every evening has at least one tutu ballet — not many dance companies can say that any more. Even the critics go crazy over our Russian stuff. We watch a lot of old tapes, but we don't try to imitate the ballerinas, we try to reproduce the female style with a masculine attack. That makes it funny and exciting."

Batting practice

When Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo first began performing (it was originally known as the "Trockadero Glixinia"), its founder was choreographer Peter Anastas (*nom de danse* Olga Tchikaboumskaya). Working in lofts off Broadway late at night, Anastas and his rag-tag band of men on pointe astounded the New York dance community with wickedly accurate parodies of past and current ballerinas. Dancers from the New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre crowded the lofts after hours to see Dame Margot Fonteyn, Maya Plisetskaya and Natalia Makarova sent up by the hairy-chested, eyelash-battling Trocks.

Makarova, far from being insulted, thought they were hilariously on the mark. Soon *The New Yorker*'s influential dance critic, Arlene Croce, discovered them, and Les Ballets Trockadero was launched. Since this coincided with the dance boom of the '70s, it was all high flying — the Trocks even ended up on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek* — until AIDS and the third factor Dobrin cites ("the NEA situation") collided with the Trockadero's flight.

The thing about the NEA is that the Trocks never had any



The Trocks in Swan Lake.

grants from anyone. But the theatres that booked us got really scared to ask for money to put on a drag show in the age of AIDS. The problem wasn't unique to the Trocks; it was part of the fabric of society as a whole. And we were in such shock by the physical pain of dealing with AIDS [Dobrin's partner, Mike Gonzales, the company's talented designer, died two years ago] that we didn't know how to handle the booking problems."

With their fortunes at a low

point in the late '80s, the Trocks rallied around Dobrin and their general director, Eugene McDougle, an archeologist by training who has been with the company since the beginning. Dobrin says, "You can't credit Eugene too much. His common sense and fiscal responsibility kept us out of hot water for years. Basically he runs the company out of his home, there is no wasted overhead."

Now that things are looking up again, what with increased tour bookings and a flood of exciting new dancers — except for Dobrin, virtually everyone on the current roster joined the Trocks within the last five years — playing a gig sponsored by Cal Performances, whose director Robert Cole is known for his exacting standards and good taste, is a sure sign that the troupe that leaves 'em laughing

and gasping is all the way back.

No more dwelling on the tragedies of the past. Dobrin says that with the new drug treatments, even dancers who are ill — "Not too many any more" — can keep on dancing. A new Russian ballet mistress, Elena Kunikova, keeps the boys on toe and stages the more arcane Russky numbers. This Berkeley gig features the company's first work by Merce Cunningham.

"It's a real Cunningham piece, danced straight," Dobrin says with tongue in cheek. "And it's hilarious." ▶

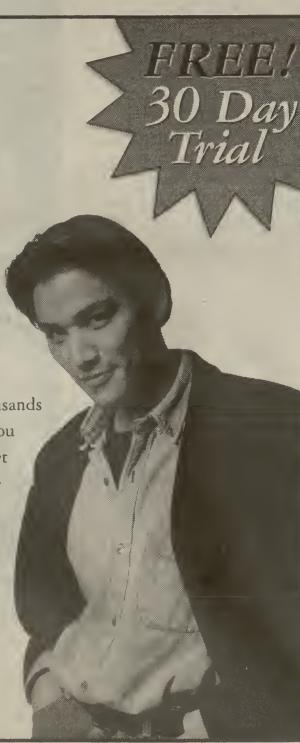
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo play Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Fri.-Sat., Jan. 29-30, at 8 p.m. Call (510) 642-9988.

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Diablo Ballet in Berkeley

Devil-may-care dance

by Aimée Ts'ao

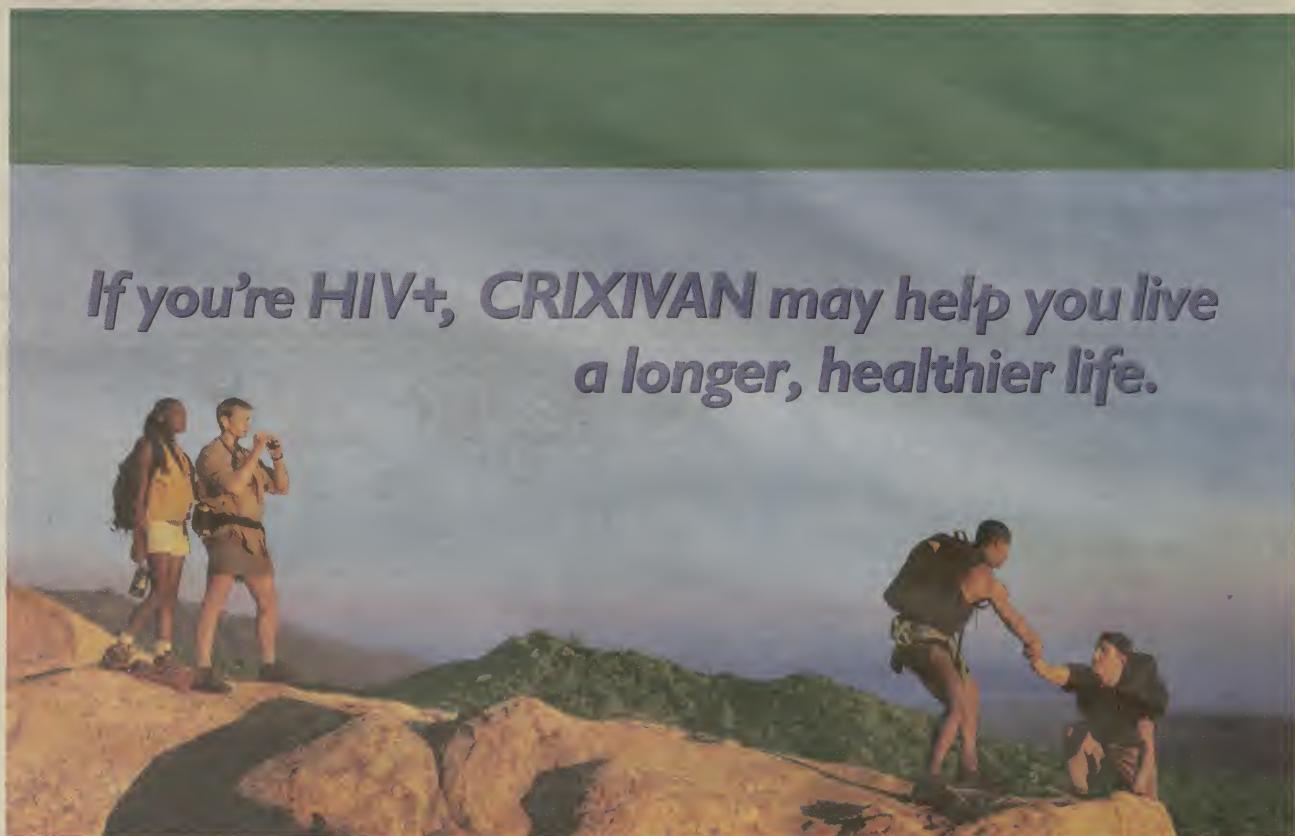
The post-holiday dance hiatus, a must after the glut of *Nutcrackers*, had cleared my palate, and my first morsel for the new year was the delicious Diablo Ballet from Walnut Creek, at their Zellerbach Hall debut in Berkeley last Saturday. Rarely does one see a young regional company perform at such a high level, utilizing ten dancers who all have danced

as soloists and principal dancers in major ballet companies. Just starting their fifth year, the aptly named company provided some devilishly great fun as well as some beautifully performed traditional work.

The program opened with Associate Artistic Director Nikolai Kabaniev's *Pas de Quatre et Pas de Six*. In Kabaniev's own words, "it is a combination of Anna Pavlova and Marilyn Monroe,

page 56 ▶

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- Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
- The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.

■ CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.

- CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

**Remember to
ask your doctor
about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Going the distance.

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, dDC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, **every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN with water. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, **every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPLISD® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
	Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).
	In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	BIAxin® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPIVR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)	ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.	
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.	
NIZORAL® (ketonconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).

Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Trivial pursuits

by Victoria A. Brownworth

We awoke on the Ides of January feeling a tad under the weather. It could have been the endless ice storm in our part of the country or perhaps just that creepy sense of déjà vu, another day of our favorite soaps pre-empted by our least favorite: *Sturm und Drang*. It's like that Bill Murray film, *Groundhog Day* — the same thing over and over again, yet no one can get it right.

Just when we thought mid-season replacements couldn't get more tedious (see below), the impeachment trial began in the Senate. Can you say soporific? Watching this was like having five martinis at lunch, minus the buzz. Even the use of (no pun intended) pie charts by Asa Hutchinson (R-Ark.) couldn't spice up this production. (Or the queer fact that Chief Justice William Rehnquist sewed those gold bars onto his judicial robes after seeing Gilbert and Sullivan. Perhaps that explains the hairstyle — it's sooo *Mikado*.)

One of our favorite rogue Republicans, former Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming), always good for a no-bull sound-bite, told ABC News maven Peter Jennings that the proceedings seemed boring beyond belief. He stopped short of saying how grateful he was to have retired, but Simpson has never been good at repressing his glee at the misfor-

tunes of others; the broad grin spoke volumes.

Meanwhile, the Senators still ambulatory (and we don't just mean Strom Thurmond) after the presentations from the House Managers (better known by their stage name, the Junkyard Dogs), barely stifled yawns when quizzed by the press. So much for the trial of the century. Can somebody please plant a bloody glove?

Speaking of wardrobe do's and don'ts, Linda Tripp landed a spot in fashion history when Mr. Blackwell headed this year's Worst Dressed list with her, proving that some queens just hate to see a real woman look like a truckdriver in K-Mart drag.

On the subject of K-Mart, Rosie O'Donnell has moved on from the Tonys to the Grammys — she'll be hosting this year's awards. Any excuse to snatch up Tyne Daly's skinny clothes (or is it Liza Minnelli's fat clothes?). Good thing sequins aren't endangered.

Rosie got out-butched last week when Patricia (*Body Farm*) Cornwell guested on her show. Cornwell's book jackets (not to mention *National Enquirer* photos) don't do her gentlemanly affect justice. (And we thought pinky rings were out except among the Gotti family.) We kept waiting for Rosie to start singing her ditties from *Grease* or at least ask her if she was packing. We also hoped Rosie would start grilling Cornwell about her affair with the FBI chick, but apparently that was

just our fantasy.

Nevertheless, it was one queer moment. Reminiscent of the first time we saw k.d. lang in a zoot suit on the *Tonight Show*. And straight folks tell us we're in denial.

Latest crap

Denial seems to be the motivating force behind many of the new shows, with one notable example: Fox's latest excretionary extravaganza, *The P.J.'s*, which might also be titled *Fun with Feces*. An Eddie Murphy production starring Eddie Murphy, this animated series takes place in the projects and focuses on the life of a janitor. Lots of bathroom humor, using plungers in exotic ways and pointing at ass-cracks. Thanks, but we don't do water sports. Can you say career in the toilet?

We were pleased to see one of our guilty pleasures, Melina Kanakaredes, back in prime time on NBC's *Providence*. She began her TV career on CBS's *Guiding Light* a few years back and has since appeared on *NYPD Blue* and several good but ill-fated mid-season shows. *Providence* is built around her character, Sydney Hansen, an LA plastic surgeon to the stars who decides to return to her home town (Providence, Rhode Island) and practice real medicine. The show

has great acting (including Mike Farrell of *M*A*S*H* fame and Concetta Tomei), sharp dialogue, and of course, Kanakaredes, who has the best bone structure since Lena Horne.

Last week's debut episode offered interesting queer moments. As Sydney is walking down the aisle at her sister's wedding, she muses, "I know what they're thinking...she's a doctor, she's still single, she must be gay." A few scenes later she returns to LA to find her live-in lover, a Hollywood agent, in the shower with another man. Perhaps you can go home again.

The shower scene (the boys were soaping each other up from behind as our doctor pal is stripping down to her Victoria's Secrets to join what she believes is a solo act) was even more interesting given ABC's 20/20 report on straight women and AIDS, which featured an in-depth interview with former actress-turned-AIDS activist Legina Luckebill Green. Green's physician, an AIDS specialist, noted the "incidence of bisexuality among men is grossly understated." The scene in *Providence*, especially with the way the incident is treated no differently from if Sydney had caught Steve with another woman, underscores the point. Nevertheless, still an envelope-pusher for a debut. And a

powerful message about HIV/AIDS transmission for straight girls from the extraordinarily courageous Green who showed every aspect of her life — including downing the 50-odd pills she takes every day and walking around in a T-shirt and the adult diapers she must wear all the time. No, kids, the epidemic isn't over.

More enlightenment came from an unlikely source on an episode of CBS's treacly *L.A. Doctors*. A 17-year-old girl, Alex, seeks medical help from series regular Sheryl Lee (*Twin Peaks*). S/he believes s/he's transgendered and wants help transitioning. Her parents, no surprise, have refused to discuss the issue. So Alex takes matters into her own hands, taking steroids and testosterone s/he gets via the Internet. Lee finds her outside her office, seriously ill; Alex is in hepatic (liver) shock from the drugs and hormones. Lee takes Alex to the hospital, where s/he ends up in intensive care, near death.

L.A. Doctors rarely skims beneath the surface of any issue it raises, but we have yet to see this topic broached in prime time. The only judgment passed was on the unsupportive parents, making the episode even more powerful. The dual messages are important ones: Don't attempt body modification without medical supervision, it could kill you; and take kids who question their gender identification seriously, or they may kill themselves. ▼

Sweet Honey

◀ Arts cover

Angeles that floored a member of director Jonathan Demme's production team. Kahlil, Ysaye Barnwell, Nitanju Bolade Casel and Carol Maillard were later invited to join the cast for the film's climactic exorcism scene. She had performed virtually her entire life, and 18 years with Sweet Honey as a dancer, jazz singer, percussionist and stage actress, but the intense grind of movie production caught her off-guard. Filming one scene took three full days.

"I have a great respect for movie actors," Kahlil said. "It was quite a dramatic scene, and we did the scene so many times, and just watching Oprah and all the actors go through that ... it was a heavy experience!"

The appearance of Sweet Honey in *Beloved* was a small, unlooked-for gift in a year of milestones for the ensemble. 1998 marked the beginning of the group's 25th year. For a quarter of a century, 22 women in combinations of fours and fives have kept Sweet Honey in The Rock in full voice, exploring all forms of music from the African-American tradition. A former member of the SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee) Freedom Singers, Reagon founded Sweet Honey as a graduate student to celebrate and preserve African-American singing traditions, and to speak out through the music against injustice. Jazz, rap, reggae, traditional African, gospel, spirituals, blues — all are found in the broad repertoire its members have collected or composed through the years.

SHIR's current members have marked the anniversary with a 12-month tour, which swings through Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall this Friday and Saturday, and with the release of ...twenty-five...,



Sweet Honey in the Rock

Sweet Honey's 15th CD to date. The group has also published its first collection of choral arrangements, *Continuum* (Third World Press), to honor the occasion.

Leaping ahead

Although they're celebrating their first 25 years, Sweet Honey has already taken several large leaps into their next 25 and shows no signs of slowing down. In 1998, the group received their second Grammy, for Best Traditional Folk Recording for their rendition of Leadbelly's "Grey Goose" on the collaborative album *Folkways, A Vision Shared*. The group performed for the soundtrack of the 1998 PBS documentary *Africans in America*. A Sweet Honey website (www.sweet-honey.com) provides information on community educational workshops taught by the performers, and features the lyrics of one Sweet Honey song — this month, Barnwell's *More than a Paycheck* — with notes by the composer and links to resource websites.

The 25th Anniversary Tour schedule lists stops in 48 cities across the United States and Canada, including performances at Carnegie Hall in New York City; the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in Wallhalla; the Warner Theater in Washington, DC; the Edmonton Folk Festival in Alberta; and the Boston Symphony Hall. A vague-yet-ambitious reference to "June 15-July 5: European Tour" had me half-expecting to see the

notation "July 7: Cure World Hunger." (Notice I did allow a day for jet lag.) It's a testament to the energy and the progressive spirit of these women that the notation wouldn't look out of place.

What pushes this list of achievements from impressive to astounding is the fact that Sweet Honey in the Rock is a sideline for these women. All this touring and recording and filming is their weekend gig. In the early years, Sweet Honey didn't have the resources to support her performers full-time. The part-time arrangement allowed Sweet Honey's members to pursue careers while helping to develop her repertoire and continue her performances.

Today, this flexibility has led to a rich synergy between the performers' careers and the growth of Sweet Honey as a cultural institution. A MacArthur Fellowship recipient, Reagon is Distinguished Professor of History at American University and Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History. Barnwell, who holds a Ph.D. in Cranio-facial Studies and an MS in Public Health, is a master teacher and clinician in cultural performance theory and voice production. Casel teaches dance and is co-director of First World Productions, a cultural and educational organization in the performing arts, with her sister, Kahlil, who is a master teacher in voice and dance, and an award-winning jazz improvisational vocalist. Maillard is a

professional singer and actor, and Johnson is a veteran professional Sign Language interpreter, communicating in a variety of situations including employment, education, law, health and performing arts. This rich mix between the members' lives and Sweet Honey's development has sustained her and made for an amazingly stable ensemble: the current members have all been with Sweet Honey for more than a decade.

The concert's the thing

If you haven't gone to a Sweet Honey concert, you've been missing the core performance experience of the group. Keeping this music alive is Sweet Honey's mission and an art form in its own right. Each concert is shaped onstage by that show's programmer, the singer who calls and introduces the numbers. All the Sweet Honey vocalists rotate as programmers, so you attend two concerts back-to-back and experience two different shows.

Sweet Honey is often referred to as a quintet, but the ensemble is truly a vocal quintet plus one. Because of the size of their repertoire and the spontaneity of their performances, Reagon discovered that hiring an ASL interpreter on location wouldn't work. That's when Shirley Childress Johnson joined as a full member of the ensemble, learning Sweet Honey's vast repertoire. Watching her interpretations gives new insight, and literally new language, to the pieces.

When Kahlil joined Sweet Honey in 1981, she brought to the group her experience as a professional dancer and advocated including more movement as part of the performance. Today, Sweet Honey performs with headsets, giving her members the freedom to move, gesticulate and dance.

...twenty-five...

There is no substitute for a

Sweet Honey concert. But if you can't get there or you'd like to bring a taste home with you, the group has released a CD, its 15th recorded collection to date.

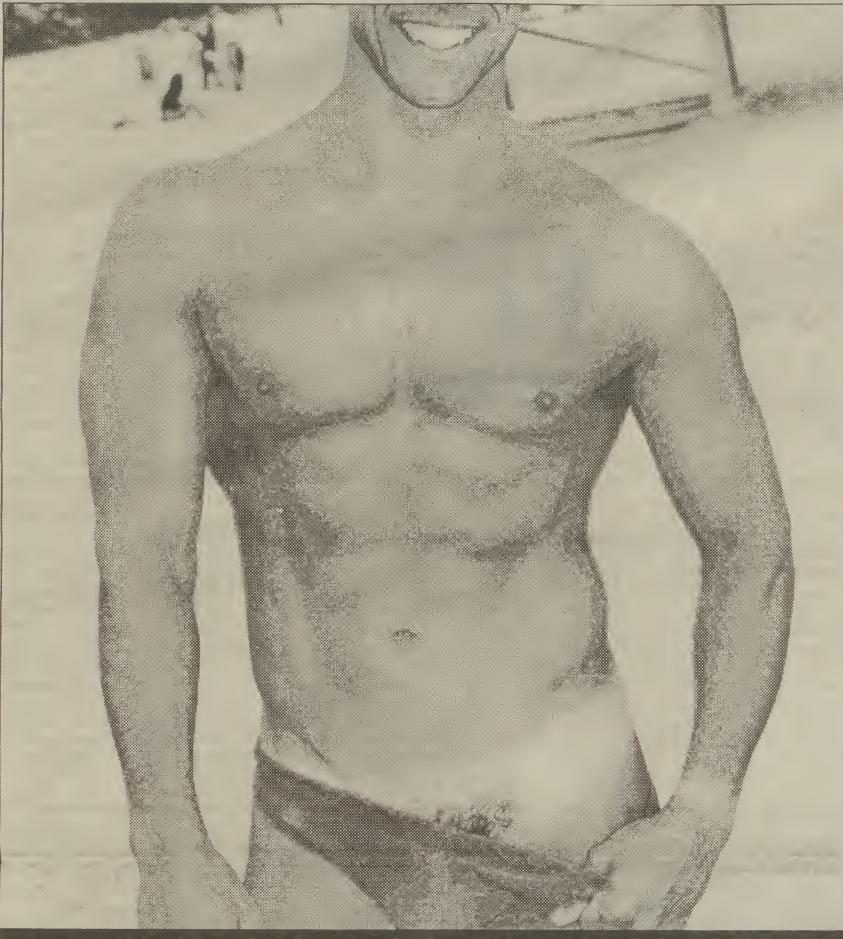
...twenty-five... is a rich jambalaya of music styles, vocal textures and social issues. The recording was produced by Barnwell, and she has assembled a song-cycle that takes the listener through traditional spiritual, gospel, jazz, rhythm & blues and reggae. The recording opens with "We Are the Ones We've Been Waiting For," an invocation performed in traditional African style with lyrics from a June Jordan poem, empowering the listener to take action in our world. It finishes the cycle with a piece titled "Hope," composed by Barnwell. Written in the tradition of a civil rights song, it admonishes the listener to "pray on, work on, teach on, fight on, sing on." In-between are songs that explore a variety of issues: destruction of the environment, the freeing power of song, isolation, greed, domestic violence, feminism, death, love. Weighty issues, but all performed with a passion and energy that keep the recording uplifting.

An interactive CD-ROM segment provides biographical information on the performers, lyrics with notes by the composers, links to related website resources, and information on where to get access to the Internet.

"How do you get bored with this group?" asks Kahlil. It seems we'll have to wait a long time to find out. ▼

Sweet Honey in the Rock performs the 25th Anniversary Concert 8 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 21 at Luther Burbank Center, Santa Rosa (707) 546-3600; and 8 p.m., Fri.-Sat., Jan. 22-23 at Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley (510) 642-9988.

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Steve Underhill

PARTING GLANCES

Big Dick Sling Boy @ Eros

You wore a chain and nothing else. I wore a condom and together we put on a show which ended in your generous eruption! Want more? I do!! ☎ 5700

Embarcadero Game Gallery 12/16
I wrapped the gifts you bought, while talking about X-mas shopping and your 2 brothers. You smiled and left shaking my hand. Want to meet sometime? ☎ 5701

225 Bush Delivery Guy
You: Dropping off packages 12/23. Me: Leaving from work for the day. Exchanged glances, regret not introducing myself. Give me a chance to do that now. Call me. ☎ 5702

Cycle Gear 12/21 Woof!!!!!!!
We were both shopping for gloves. You took off too soon. Would like to have talked to you. Joe. ☎ 5703

Sex only
GBM, 47, 5'10", 220, ch 49", arms 17", legs 29", thighs 33" and calves 17 1/2". Seeks 18-25 for safe sex. You clean hygiene and HIV-, swollen nipples and round ass. ☎ 5704

Blow Buddies Friday 12/18
Dark hair, musc., bottom, getting rimmed. Me Blk/bl. top, big dick. 3 shared booth wanted to be in a bed. Looked to give #. I want to do it right. ☎ 5705

Stunning Blade Boy on 9th St.
12.29.98 @4pm, btwn Harrison/Howard. You: Greene sweats, buzzed head/shadowed, hypnotic eyes/smile. Me: buzzed & glasses, with friend. I had to stare! Let's meet. Christopher. ☎ 5804

New Years Eve @ Berkeley
At the baths, I was in room 206, you and I had great sex twice. You live Hayes & Scott, me Hayes & Laguna - Love to get together again! ☎ 5800

Randy? Fed-Ex
Met on Muni New Years Eve Morning. Should have given you my number. Coffee? Drink? Call me! ☎ 5801

Vietnamese Restaurant Dec 29
18th & Harrison. You were as cute as your blue shirt. You: with 3 friends. Me: Shirt & tie. My friend thought you were cruising me. Am I that lucky? ☎ 5802

Pigboy Ben
You snorted and oinked and got me off at the Powerhouse. I gave you my card. Are you ready for the game I want to play? ☎ 5803

Universe 12-2
You came up squeezed my left tit. Then some pip squeak decided I was his next dance partner. When I freed myself, you were gone. You're adorable. Please call. ☎ 5707

Dennis City Entertainment Sun
You sucked my dick thru the hole, we kissed and you came over. We kissed a lot and I ate and fucked your sweet hole. More? Again? Naked. ☎ 5709

David Met John Folsom St 1/10
You are so sexy and taste delicious. Let's hang out somewhere more romantic. You, 14th St. Me Nee Valley. Answer all calls. ☎ 5710

Steamworks Locker Room
Thurs 1/7 9pm. You: Concord guy, glasses, 5'9", 150, mustache, friendly. Me: Ran to cab to Lake Merritt. Regret not introducing myself. Please call. ☎ 5903

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

A Complimentary Partnership
Can 2 sensible, handsome and sexy reserved men nurture each other willingly, emotionally and affectionately while respecting pleasures of life? Yes. We're: creditable, 26-37, compassionate/others, and in quest to better ourselves through one another. ☎ 5706

Mixed Nationality
GBM Seeks mixed race for good honest safe sex. HIV-, clean hygiene must be: sexually strong, aggressive and gentle in bed. Swollen nipples and big round ass a +. ☎ 5707

Seeking Partnership
Rope bondage enthusiast ISO masochist for exploration & partnership. You be in-shape, hung & se-rious. I'm 5'9", 185, warm & experienced. Relationship oriented. ☎ 5709

Loving Son 4 New Year
An honest, good looking and thoughtful Asian top GWM/LM 40-55 ND, NS with facial hair for friendship or LTR. I'm affectionate, warm loving, like movies, theater. Answer all calls. ☎ 5710

Woman Seeks Man For Courting
Natural, quiet, cultured, mid-aged "woman" seeks gentleman friend or ciple. Stable relationship desired. Perhaps a married man? ☎ 5711

Wanted Masc. Cross-Dresser
GWM-semi retired, prof. seeks young masc., athletic, discreet male cross dresser. ☎ 5818

Wanted: A Happier New Year!
HIV+, 35, 160, handsome, natural blond, blue eyes, seeks caring sex, GWHM for LTR. Let's stop playing games and start living! Darker hair preferred - not required. Romance and sincerity are! ☎ 5712

Impotence Too?
Retired 60s SF man wants to touch and share the fun of living with a fellow senior who likes some of the things he likes. Don't be shy! ☎ 5713

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 5716

I'm Looking For More Than Sex
I enjoy sex. I also enjoy a good laugh, movie, meal, & talking for hours. GWM 39.6.200lbs hairy and a bottom. ☎ 5717

Raunchy Buddy Wanted
Masculine WM, 37, looking for masculine partner to explore raunch, WS, Scat action on a regular basis. S 5718

Pretty Woman 4 Free
Young looking 40 GWM wants to dress up and be a pretty woman for you. Good times all the way! ☎ 5719

Do You Believe?
32GWM 5'10" 160lbs tired of games, being broken hearted. Looking for honest, real guy, 28-36, not into games, bar scene. Does anybody really fall in love anymore? I believe. ☎ 5720

Submitting WM 37
Need dad or master figure to train me or take me into fold. No experience. Like BD, WS, CBT, ropes. S 5810

This Black Man Loves Asian Men!
Love the feel of your skin. Me: slender Black man, 45, big dick. You: slender 25-45. Let's suck and.... I want every inch of you. Let's talk! ☎ 5750

Big Brother Where Are You?
Stud of an African American male 5'5", 26, 150lbs, into sterolab and Hendrix, seeks domineering, versatile kind partner for LTR. I'm HIV-, fit, masculine, handsome and hip. You be too! ☎ 5806

New Year New Start
Good looking, GWM, 34, 5'9", blond/blue, shaved head, goatee, athletic build, creative, masculine, HIV-. Into movies, partnership, dinners, sex, cycling and travel. Seeking similar GWM 30s for dating, possible LTR. S 5807

GWM Tattooed Buzzcut
Comics/action figure collecting, versatile kisser. 5'8" 180lb. ISO blue collar/skater/alternative? 25-40 H/W proportionate! White/Latino n-smoker into hiking, camping, basketball, football, dinner, movies, coffee. LTR. ☎ 5808

Not Top or Bottom 37 looks 27
Limitations bore me. Only you and I know the endless possibilities. I'm 5'7", 145lbs, built for strength & stamina. Bring your imagination. We are HIV+. Hurry fate awaits! ☎ 5809

More Than sex More Than Once
If hugs & kisses are more important than just sex, let's talk. Me: Attract, topman, GWM, 48, 6'5", 250, stocky, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: attract (GM) white, asian, latin, slim 21-35. Good kisser a +. S 5811

ISO Very Intelligent, GM 30-38
GWM, 34, ISO smart, sincere GM, any race (asian a +) for friendship, dating, hopefully more. Not into bars/smoking/drugs. Take a chance! ☎ 5812

Looking for L T R.....
GLM 24, 5'2", 130#, black hair, brown eyes, music lover, art touched. You, serious, independent, and be ready for a relationship. ☎ 5813

Seeking A Hot Adventure Man
Hot jock boys, hello. My name is JS. I am 6'2", 225, blond blue. Hot a adventure man. If your a hair bear. Like I am. Do me! ☎ 5814

GWM HIV+ 27yo 5'5" 125#
Swimmers build, blond buzzcut. Cute bookish art student, seeks intelligent, creative, versatile guy 25-35, who's HIV- (not) & wants to have fun! ☎ 5815

Brown Man Seeks Friends
42 6'1" 170lbs HIV- beard moustache. I enjoy music, massage, and gardening. I live in cabin in UKiah, vegetarian, on spiritual path. Not looking for sex buddy. N/S, N/D, N/A. ☎ 5817

Man Of Substance
Looking to meet quality guys over 21. I'm Latino 27, 5'7", 165, stocky, muscular, intelligent, very busy grad student. Must like travel and movies. ☎ 5819

Hot Horny Regular Guy
Cute HIV- WM 38 6' 190lbs. Many attributes, seeks attractive masculine WM buddy, 18-35, for hot oral action, maybe more. LTR? It could happen. ☎ 5820

Considerate Sensitive Loyal
Good-looking romantic, versatile, 5'6", 130lbs, brn/blu, 46yr GWM seeks passionate Pacific Islander/Asian 25-35. For good times, movies, dining, arts, music, dating in SF. ☎ 5821

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 23yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional, 5'10", 165#. Looking for GWM 26-39yo for friendship or more. I like to go to movies, travel, hiking, tennis. Call me. ☎ 5804

Are You Ready?
I finally am - to get down to business & meet another guy, who's tired of empty beds and lonely nights and also ready to work on getting to know each other! ☎ 5705

GWM European Speak Engl/Frncn HIV-, NS, N/D, uncut, 1 am 50+.
You wouldn't guess. I wear glasses, am 5'11", 163lbs, 32" waist. ISO Bik or Latino who loves kissing & cuddling for sale sex. ☎ 5906

Blue Collar German Seeks LTR
With WM or Middle Eastern bottom. Me: 50, uncut, 5'9", 34" w, Br/Br, 200#, stache, accent, Homy, non-aggressive top. You: Tall, big butt, not chubby, 38-55. ☎ 5908

Bottom Daddy/Big Brother
GWM, 40, 6'165lbs, poz, Ital/Germ, Br/Hzl, goatee seeks lean GWM anal top snuggle buddy. 18-39. Dark hair a +. ☎ 5909

Positive In Every Way

HIV+, fun loving, grounded GBM seeks older GWM for fun, sharing and exploring all things that life has to offer. U.B. btwn 40-50. Serious only. ☎ 5910

GWM Seeks Latino
GWM, 40s, 5'7", 150lbs, bl/bl, goodlooking, sexy, HIV+, healthy, in-shape, professional, masculine seeks Latino for dating possible LTR. ☎ 5911

Mr. Wonderful
Handsome 29 5'8" 180 Black hair hazel eyes tone body, movies, dinners, walks, are a must looking for guys 25-40 tone body's and their act together, Latinos A+. ☎ 5912

Love Dominant Tops
GWM, 6'165, seeks men any age + size for long time fucking. You can blow me anytime your horny. Yours for pleasure. I'm a phone call away. ☎ 5913

Mulatto Guy
Sexy intelligent, educated, creative, goodlooking, seeks the right guys for friendship, fun, or just good times. ☎ 5914

Hairy Stud
Me: hairy, handsome, 38, 5'9", 160#, goatee, buzzcut, muscular, total top, big dick, HIV+. You: under 45, attractive, healthy, bottom, eager to please aggressive top. ISO good sex, romance, affection. ☎ 5915

Virtually Normal
GWM Graduate of Yale. Not into bars. Seeking LTR. Young 38. Acts very straight. No kink, ND, ND. Please be disease-free. Be at least 6ft tall, please call. ☎ 5916

Together Into 2000 with Quality
Man, above avg. looks, loving soul & nurturer. Italian, Br/Br, curly, 5'10", 170#, fit, hairy, sexy, dominant, \$ stable, passionate about life, love, nature. Ready to settle w/HIV+ soulmate. Desire 30s-40s, stable, ready to commit. Will call back. ☎ 5907

My Religion: Live Thru Love
Intelligent introspective clean-cut slim professional, 44yo, seeks similar <55yo with a well endowed heart/mind to explore a deep and multifaceted relationship with another. ☎ 5916

Is My Love Life Over?
Very attractive 42yo muscular caucasian male. I'm honest, sensitive, dependable & very loving. Seeking a smooth musc, hairless Asian. Pls be honest, and not superficial. SF & E. Bay. ☎ 5917

Are we Missing One Another?
32 WM seeks self-kinky focused life-partner. Me: spiritual; highly-motivated; extremely liberal; hiker; thinker; very independent; blonde; masculine; boish; easy-going. All answered though Asian/Pacific Island born and under 40yo preferred. ☎ 5918

SEEKING ADVENTURE

ISO Hung Out Over 60 AM or WM
Bi-curious masculine mature WM wants on knees hands handcuffed behind back while you grab back of my head fucking my virgin throat shoot your hot load on my face. ☎ 5721

D'Ya Know What it's Like???
To need a cock or a fist up your ass? To need your balls squeezed? To need a cock to worship? If you do, please help me. S 5722

Just Shut-up And Ride!
WM, 33, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk- 48"ch 32" w 18" arms-wants goodlooking masculine men to pump me or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off-anymore! S 5723

Seeking Under 50 HIV- Lean
men to suck one or more at a time. No reciprocation necessary. I am in my 50s, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair, any race, 7inches welcome. ☎ 5724

Woof!
Masc., musc., couple (5'10", 220lb, 44yo, & 6', 215lb, BB, defined, 50yo) ISO new friends (sex & non-sex) masc., men (30-50yo) Hairy A+. ☎ 5725

Older Seeks Black or Latino
GWM in SF, 60, 5'8" 145# HIV- NS, ND white beard ISO younger fit mature black or latino under 6' for mutual cuddling, massage, JO. ☎ 5726

White Bottom Needs HIV- Latino
Dick to suck. No reciprocation necessary. I am in my 50s, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair. Prefer lean aggressive men under 50. One or more at a time. ☎ 5727

Formerly Straight

Masculine WM, 41, with lean build wants to try being orally submissive. Seeking another very lean, dominant guy younger or about same age to make me get on my knees. ☎ 5728

Looking For A Typical Male

GWM 36, 6', 170#, HIV+ and well endowed who likes to work up a sweat and who doesn't have hag ups when it comes to sex. ☎ 5729

Big Hands Big Feet Big . . .???
GWM, top, 49, 6'3" 235. Would like to connect w/a GBM bottom. H/wt proportionate. Let us start w/some adventure and go for LTR. ☎ 5731

Wanna Fuck?

Total bottom seeks GWM top for completely satisfying service. Will suck on your dick & get you started. You are HIV+, tall, well built & handsome 30-50. I am 5'8", s/p, hot, short stache. ND, arona ok. ☎ 5732

Merciless Pounding

Nasty, hung-big top, 42, looking to pound in-shape bottoms. Mouth and butt. Must be able to take it long and deep. ☎ 5733

Wanted: A Happier New Year!
HIV+, 35, 160, handsome natural blond, blue eyes, seek caring sexy, GW/HM for LTR. Let's stop playing games and start living! Darker hair preferred - not required. Romance and sincerity are! ☎ 5734

Can you handle pierced punk fuck
Slim, tattooed. Big chest? Bubble butt? Muscular/swimmers build. Versatile? Masculine? Will fuck, finger, lick, eat ass, cocksuck, fuck big balls! Call my box #. ☎ 5749

Free Erotic Massage

Let my hands and mouth engulf your total body. Enjoy well built masculine guys 18-40 for good oral fun. Also into and hosting intimate group hot tub parties. ☎ 5822

Dr. Daddy

Needs younger men to play with, examine and provide good medicine. Massage included. Be in-shape like I am. Very private, 43, way into fun, especially with school boys. ☎ 5823

Asian & Latin Guys Read This

Do you need to kick back and get sucked off tonight? Call now. Same day or night call backs. ☎ 5824

Recycled Beer

Thirsty individual seeking Asian, Latin and other ethnic men with powerful hole. ☎ 5825

Cockworshippers Wanted:
Big dicked high priest of prajan cult seeks devotees for long, intense face-fucking sessions. Enthusiasm essential. ☎ 5826

Sex Buddy Needed

Bi WPM late 40s 5'9" 185 hung 8+ " clean-cut b/b, HIV- European Christian (Asian, Latin, foreign a+) 18-40 for safe, discreet, regular oral, J/O, w/porn, versatile, friendship, LTR, possible, SF. ☎ 5827

Black Studs Inquire Within
Italian bottom stud, 45, 6', 200#, ms, S/P, buzzcut, looking to spend time between your legs. Castro location, Fri-sat 12-5am. ☎ 5828

GWM Seeks GBM for Breeding
Me: 5'8", 150, very hairy, stache. You: Taller than me and well endowed. I need you to fuck me and feed me regularly. ☎ 5829

Bondage

I am looking for a playmate who likes to administer bondage, light to moderate flogging and roleplay. Slender and athletic. Reciprocation possible. ☎ 5830

Sexy Cute Bottom

Masculine Spanish/Italian, yng 40s, 5'7", bry/bm, mustache, 140lb, well proportioned boy body w/beautiful butt & nice hairy legs. You: Attractive, masculine, 5'8"+, 28-40. ☎ 5831

Big Bears Big Daddies

GBM 5'11", 250lbs, big chest, hung, seeks big husky and pleasant fat man for uninhibited sex. My size or bigger only discretion. ☎ 5832

Asian Sucker

GWM 27 145lbs nice body ISO 1-3 asian men to suck off and fill my w/cock. Bi ok be under 45 my place. ☎ 5833

Hot Hairy Daddy 6 200 55 wants
Boy to spoil rotten, for complete service in return. You: younger, smaller, submissive, needy; kiss, suck, fuck, love, herb/aroma ok, LTR. ☎ 5834

Shaved Top Shaves Shaver Bottom
Shaved top needs to fuck shaved total bottom. Me: Hot Daddy top 54, 6', 180, hard cock. You: Slender, insatiable bottom eager to shave his top. S 5925

Monday make-out sought by Bi WGM
GDLKG guy, 32, 5'9", 180, br;br, muscular legs & butt, nice cock seeks bi/gay guys, 20-40 for sucking, licking, tickling & horseplay mondays only, discrete & fun! ☎ 5835

Chubby Daddy Teddy Grizzly Bear
21, 6', 218#, 6" cut, short hair/bdry/stache, hairy chest, belly, safe, sane versatile & lots of fun. Us: Trimmer & younger than I. Let's play B4, 1/7. ☎ 5836

My Only Exercise: Push-ups
I need a mature, masculine guy to take 9 behind. I use the stop and withdraw method. I'm 45, endowed, Bi. You're any race, experienced, easy to reach. No machines. ☎ 5838

Big Bottom Bear Seeks Tops!
GWM 35, 6'3" 290# attractive masculinity and uninhibited. I'm seeking men who want to fuck! Any age, race, or size will be serviced. Call me now! ☎ 5839

Put Your Hot Lips On Mine!
Then let me kiss and lick you all over! Seeking a GAM or GLM to stroke, kiss & fondle, 25-45. Healthy WM 42 5'8" 138# ready and waiting. ☎ 5840

Do You Want Your Hole Filled?
Handsome Top, hung 8 uncut thick inches, in-shape, blond and 38yo. I want your warm hole for plugging. Friendly bottoms who are oral or anal lets get it on! ☎ 5841

Need A Steady Fucker - I'm Hot
GWM 50y 5'11", 175, HIV-, ND, NS, like to suck and get fucked, play with your balls your ass and tits, race no factor or age. I like 7" or 8" dick I'm hot, call. ☎ 5842

GWM Daddy Seeks GAM Bottom
Boy to take care. My 40y, 9", 5'10", 175, Italian hot top. You must be bottom & take care of Daddy. ☎ 5843

GAM Desires Leather S/M Fantasy
50 youthful, handsome look, gym-toned, 5'5", 120#, seeks GWM hunks in full leather, tattooed, pierced, w/rim beard/goatee, over 6', w/muscles, into SM/leather scene, cigar smoking & dirty talk. ☎ 5844

GWM Dick Wants Deep Throated
Total cocksucker for long workouts. UB enthusiastic, imaginative, Age, race unimportant. Talented lips, mind a mut. Lots of facefucking! ☎ 5845

GWM Sonoma Co 42 5'11" HIV-
Lean, muscular, hung, seeks same to have his ass eaten for hours then fuck my hungry man pussy. ☎ 5846

What Turns You On? Getting It?
GWM 47 5'10" 150lb. ISO young playful fuck buddy. You: ? to be determined. ND NA HIV+ pref. Cigs, aroma toys ok. E Bay. Call you'll be glad you did! ☎ 5847

Wanted Short Stocky Hairless
GWM seeks under 5'6" GLM or GAM bottom. Prefer brown skin and under 35. I am 45, 6'2" in-shape. Good legs A+. ☎ 5848

Workout Partner Needed
Do you do "The Sling"? A couple times a month? I need a partner to help me break in. ☎ 5849

Jackoff - Showoff? Need an Apt?
Devoted to pleasing yourself? Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipful neighbors? Need an SF apt? If your Asian or GWM 30s-40s, let's talk! S 5926

Million Dollar Ass
OK maybe only 500 thousand. Plow me every which way. Muscular, very masculine, mature GWM seeks hot tops 30-40 HIV-, ND, NS. Straight men A+. ☎ 5848

Hey Dick Pig!
Do you want a big dick to take his time in your mouth & throat? Can you suck for hours? Take piss? If so, call me. ☎ 5849

Like Watching Yourself Get ...
Sucked by a hot guy with a big dick? This gym-toned blonde won't disappoint! No age preference, just be X-tra hung and smooth. Leave explicit message for callback. ☎ 5850

Breaking Up With A Lesbian?

So am I. I want to start a lesbian break-up support group. This is not a professional counseling group. It's a bunch of Dykes. Besides, isn't it better than vegging alone? ☎ 5851

Gotta Have Chocolate
BM 35+ Avg. Looks and tanned, tight in right places w/mind and sex appeal seeks BM equipped and tender to loosen my tight spots. Back front and all over. ☎ 5829

Swallow It All The Way Down
WM 50 very masculine good shape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient insatiable. Very deep throat for regular sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 5830

MuscleDad Seeks Boy to Fist
Lean, hard, muscular, well-defined top, sure-handed and good-looking, seeks submissive, low-fat fistling bottom under 40 who's focused, responsive, flexible, receptive. Beginners OK if qualified as above. ☎ 5827

Tight Bottom
HIV- GWM mature & very horny. Want to be spanked and FF. Lot's of as play. You: mature, experienced HIV- nice cock & likes being fucked. Plus fucking my tight ass. 45-65 OK. Herbs/aroma OK. I also have other fantasies. Maybe you do to. Quick call back. ☎ 5831

Gods And Monsters
It's tea time and you must strip and make an exhibition of yourself for bearded British gent 50, 5'10", slim. You be in shape 18-40. ☎ 5831

Daddy ISO UC Boys
Dominate Dad 40s into mutual oral action WS, jock straps, dirty talk, sweat ISO young uncut white/latin boys for play/party sessions. ☎ 5832

Saturday Night Fever
Gay white male clean cut, healthy and fun loving seeks versatile bottom for Sat night dancing, movies and lovemaking. ☎ 5834

Big Dick Wants Deep Throated
Total cocksucker for long workouts. UB enthusiastic, imaginative, Age, race unimportant. Talented lips, mind a mut. Lots of facefucking! ☎ 5835

GWM Sonoma Co 42 5'11" HIV-
Lean, muscular, hung, seeks same to have his ass eaten for hours then fuck my hungry man pussy. ☎ 5846

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GWM 47 5'10" 150lb. ISO young playful fuck buddy. You: ? to be determined. ND NA HIV+ pref. Cigs, aroma toys ok. E Bay. Call you'll be glad you did! ☎ 5847

Wanted Short Stocky Hairless
GWM seeks under 5'6" GLM or GAM bottom. Prefer brown skin and under 35. I am 45, 6'2" in-shape. Good legs A+. ☎ 5848

A-1 Oral Service - Delivered
SF GWM HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 5849

Wanted: Latinos & Others
I'm a 24yo GWM bld/blu 5'7" 135lbs, HIV-, trim. I am seeking orally unresponsive uncut latinos & others. I am very versatile & very, very eager to please. You won't be disappointed! ☎ 5841

Horny Hole Needs Dildo Daddy
Butthole loving topman 50+, sought by dominant cock to brink several times before milking my dry feeding me my cum then jerking off on my face. Video tape ok. ☎ 5842

FF Top Wants Bottom
Me: GWM 6'5" 275 over 45 with big hands you: GWM over 35 with open hole into butt games. S 5843

Horny Hole Needs Dildo Daddy
Butthole loving topman 50+, sought by dominant cock to brink several times before milking my dry feeding me my cum then jerking off on my face. Video tape ok. ☎ 5842

Fetish Queen Fantasy
ISO Drag Queens for virgin experience red heads +++, cigar smokin, jo, Ass person, 69 all day no drugs, be gentle. ☎ 5847

In Your Briefs Getting Spanked
34 yo QM spansk in-shape boys 20-40, who know they need it or are curious. Me: discreet, honest skilled. You'll squirm with pain/pleasure. Tears? S 5848

Lesbian
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles Fantasies. Jo, EB sensual GWM w/o ring 5'9", trim, tan, hairy. HIV-, seeks buddy. ☎ 5845

FETISHES
Daytime Asshole Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! ☎ 5839

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

Love to Rim Butt

Asian bottom looking to servicing a top men who enjoys kicking back having their rip/clean hole licked body worship from head to toe WS, cum, tipplay ass fucking "aroma" also turn ons. ☎ 5829

Hey Bud... Take a Seat.....

On my rimchair I'll eat out your butt. Good looking GWM (33) looking to service guys 25-45. Take a load off, bust a nut. Available afternoons, evenings. ☎ 5836

Ball Players Club

If balls are a major erotic focus for you, call and we'll send you some info about the club. Membership social gathering on January 15, new-comers welcome. ☎ 5737

BD SM Leather Kinky Fun

Novice Bi cur., 33 63. Safe love to it all. Toys & group kink. ☎ 5738

Protruding Ass Lips / Big Hole

Serviced with nasty, dirty long tongue. I prefer very slim guys only. I am gdkg, 48, 6'1", 180 and a thick 7". ☎ 5840

Spanking

Pants down, bare butt spanking for collegiate preppie, athlete type guys. Safe, stinging. Hand or paddle. Inshape good-looking top. ☎ 5845

Gods And Monsters

It's tea time and you must strip and make an exhibition of yourself for bearded British gent 50, 5'10", slim. You be in shape 18-40. ☎ 5831

Can U Act Like A Dog?

Stocky average GWM 51, HIV-, smoker, non gym, cut top. Looking for a submissive GWM buddy with cut bones, nice butt, sense of humor for sexual fantasy exploits. ☎ 5741

Grey Haired? In-Shape?

Slim mid aged guy will be happy to provide leisurely, laid back stimulation oral service to in-shape, grey haired owner of defined athletic physique and rock hard equipment ongoing arrangement possible. S 5742

Have a Happy Hairless New Year!

GWM wants to shave you smooth for the new year! Crotch balls & anywhere else. Fun & safe. Let's shave it off & get you off! Call me. ☎ 5841

Heavy Set Men

W/Lm 42, 6'1", 250lbs. ISO heavy set men who enjoy slow and sensual oral service. Prefer rugged-looking men who don't exercise, like eating and not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 5848

Master ISO Slave

For training, bondage, S/M. Beginners welcome, Master is 6', 210, muscular, hairy, experienced, sane, responsible, 56yo. You be athletic, masculine WM, into total submission & service. ☎ 5949

Santa Left A Switch

If you've been naughty, time to receive the birch. If you've been nice, show Santa's helper how to receive the birch. ☎ 5744

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Older Male for My Fantasy

Through this mature straight WM down. Bind torment cock to brink, several times before milking me dry feeding me my cum, then jerk off on my face. Ok to video tape. ☎ 5842

FF Top Wants Bottom

Me: GWM 6'5" 275 over 45 with big hands you: GWM over 35 with open hole into butt games. S 5843

Horny Hole Needs Dildo Daddy

Butthole loving top man 50+ sought by attractive guy with big hot hole. Fingering, dirty talk, mirrors, slings A+. Stretch my hole for butt pounding. Video taping possible. All calls returned. ☎ 5844

Tres Amigos?

Latino/European couple, in-shape, mid-30s, seek 3rd friend mid-20-30s for dancing, travel, movies, dinner, adventure, and more! You: Start the new year w/out hot action! ☎ 5849

GW/AC Seeks Single or Couple

For sexual exploration. We are mid-30s, in-shape, HIV-, you be in-shape, HIV-, white, latin or asian. Start the new year w/out hot action! ☎ 5849

ISO Kinky Bi Cpls For Fun!

Early 30s, HIV+ healthy, looking for other E. Bay guys who have female friends/acquaintances who would enjoy getting together with us for mutual intimate encounters. ☎ 5745

East Bay Bi WM

Early 30s, HIV+ healthy, looking for other E. Bay guys who have female friends/acquaintances who would enjoy getting together with us for mutual intimate encounters. ☎ 5745

LESBIAN

Women's Basketball Is Here! ABL Lasers, CAL, Stanford. Want to go to games, but not alone. Join us! Meet at games, ride together, party afterwards, & just meet new people. It's up to you! Call now!! ☎ 4957

OTHER

In Search of Twins who like dance
GAM dancer/performer. AM looking for twins to make a dance group for night clubs and social events. Wanna be famous while having fun? ☎ 5747

Athlete Seeks Training Partner
Primarily for interval training on the streets of SF. My other activities are: weights, soccer and biking. Rain and cold don't bother me, so c'mon let's run. ☎ 5748

Pretty Girl Serves Gentleman
On her knees! as a maid, in fetish uniform; being spanked; her slim stiff, perfect cock is hung by her mini skirt. Dyke ok. ☎ 5951

Older Man - Trim - Is Available...
Call this senior male to tell him what you want. Experienced, adaptable, amoral, amoral, etc. What is your pleasure? SF 0 Daytime ☎ 5952

Workout Partner Wanted

Intermediate to advanced experience, I'm very knowledgeable, eves and/or weekends. Goal oriented. Serious only. \$ 5953

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BARTALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Name	Daytime Telephone
Address	Evening Telephone
City	State
	Zip

PERSONALS



Associate Artistic Director Nikolai Kabaniaev and Patricia Tomlinson

Diablo Ballet

◀ page 50

Mathilda Kschessinska and Madonna." To a score created by Michael Bemesderfer using computer-enhanced sound, the dancers evoke both the graceful ephemeral quality of turn-of-the-century ballerinas in tutus and the not-so-subtle sexuality of the Hollywood entertainment industry. A strange juxtaposition of styles, yet the piece was a valid comment on the iconifying of a very limited range of qualities of women. Women are seen not as whole human beings, but as only the embodiment of one ideal, which dif-

the ideal artist, a god above normal human motivation. As the three Muses, Karen Portner, Corinne Jonas and Patricia Tomlinson all danced exceeding well. Coincidentally, both Balanchine and Kabaniaev are products of the Kirov school, émigrés to America, grounded in traditional schooling, but incorporating elements of their adopted culture. The key difference is that Kabaniaev arrived sixty years later and can build on the evolution of dance that Balanchine helped propel.

Using Astor Piazzolla's tango music almost always guarantees the audience will love the ballet that accompanies it. *Incitations*, choreographed by Kelly Teo, was

The importance of live music cannot be overestimated, both for the audience and the dancers. It brings a richness of sound and atmosphere, and it creates a rapport with the dancers and choreography that recorded music can never do.

fers in each historical period, unattainable purity or sex goddess. Kelly Teo's solo was indeed worth noting. He jumps and turns with such precise attack that if your heart doesn't jump into your throat, you should see your doctor.

Sally Streets created a charming pas de deux, *Variations on Baroque*, danced by Erika Johnson and Kyongho Kim to excerpts from Gluck's ballet *Don Juan*. I was impressed by the attention to stylistic detail, both choreographically and interpretively. Streets consulted with dance historian Angene Ferves, and the result was luminous, filled with charm and wit without a hint of cloying saccharine.

Back to Balanchine

I have always loved Balanchine's *Apollo*, a masterpiece of neo-classicism, but for the first time, quite possibly because of the order of the program, I found it oddly old-fashioned. (It is seventy years old, after all.) The dancing had nothing that could be faulted, Marina Eglovsky's staging was painstaking, yet coming after Kabaniaev's piece, it looked dated. Kabaniaev has a nobility and slight detachment which properly puts his *Apollo* on the level of

no exception. While the actual steps weren't particularly innovative, the overall tension and drive provided by dancers, costumes, lighting and set made for a dynamically satisfying piece. Tomlinson particularly stood out in her sultriness.

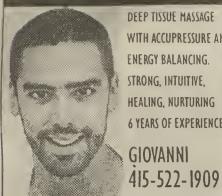
It was obvious that many audience members were there to hear Pete Escovedo and his band perform. *E Medley*, a salsa-ballet hybrid by Kabaniaev, not only had ready-made supporters, but made some converts as well. Nothing brilliant in terms of choreography, just great fun, and lots of energetic, sensual movement to hot Latin music by one of the best in the field. I could have done without the gaudy costumes and lighting.

I truly appreciated having live music for four of the five pieces. The importance of live music cannot be overestimated, both for the audience and the dancers. It brings a richness of sound and atmosphere, and it creates a rapport with the dancers and choreography that recorded music can never do.

Just because Diablo Ballet is from the East Bay, beyond the hills, doesn't make it provincial. It's definitely worth making the trip to see them. ▼

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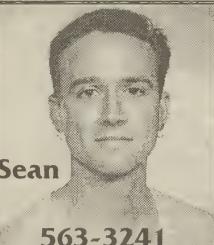
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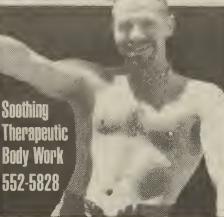
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If you like to get hard, show off and watch or play with other guys who like the same, try out the Garage at the

Circle J Club

Garage open every night 8pm-12m except Mon and Thu.

Cool lighting, huge show-off space. In addition, adjoining video theater features 3 continuous porno screens and is open every day 10am-12m.

Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show it off. Must check street clothes Tues & Fri (underwear OK); Clothes check also available after 12m. No tips. Adm \$8

Circle J Club 369 Ellis SF
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24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

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SIZE 12 FEET - HOT - TOP

Gd Lking Foot top 39yo, 6'1", 195#

Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out calls.

E06

AMAZING TOP

Very Handsome Hazel Eyes Olive Complexion Full Lips Athletic Build Well Endowed. Will Leave You Breathless. Page me @ 207-6025

E03

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 lbs

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E03

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Kory 773-9130

E03

Horny stud. Open to all fantasies.

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STRICTLY TOP

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E03

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Discreet, 773-9130 Kory

E03

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VIETNAMESE STUD

E03

WHEN YOU WANT A MAN NOT A BOY

Thirty something with good looks & a sense of humor looking 4 adventure. I'm well built, aggressive top!

XXXHUNGXXXTHICK!!!

Max 415-431-6253 \$90. 24hrs

E03

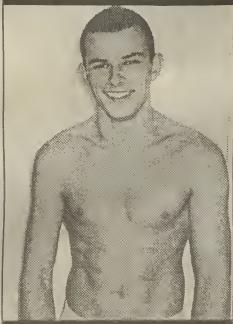
BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay Area

Ted * (415) 459-3488

E06

MODELS/ESCORTS

NINETEEN YEAR OLD



Page: Josh 415.790.5109

Ready And Willing

WILL FILL YOU UP.
VIDEO/MAG MODEL.
5'10" 165# 9" CUT.
IN/OUT \$100/120.

865-0144

TOP

Oh, Daddy!
10.5 X-7.5
6'3" 200 47
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33yo 6' 205# solid hairy muscles
REAL MAN'S MAN
Great chest & Butt on Handsome Self assured construction Wkr Sometimes nasty sometimes nice. Deep blue eyes, shaved head & goatee. 201-6533 Out only

E03

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New - Let me rope your Fantasies Into reality.in/out 24hrs 307-9123 Dean

E04

Lean, Blond Versatile Boy
22 6' 145# Blond/blue

CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR

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E03

LEATHER TOP!
Handsome, Expert Master Light To Heavy Sensual S/M

TOM 415-487-1296

E03

BRUTALLY HANDSOME

MuscleStud 160# 5'8" Br/B1 8's

Sweet MuscleButt 560-3059 After3

E03

9 1/2 CUT THICK

MUSCULAR SWIMMER

VAL 415-303-6137

E03

BLUE COLLAR PUNK

Tattooed, Pierced, Young and Hung

Versatile Pgr 791-4393

E03

Sensual Satisfaction 792-8388

GORGEIOUS ASIAN

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Dutch, Irish, Aussie 26 5'10" 160lb

"NEW IN TOWN"

9.5" CUT VERY THICK!!!

Sensual Cleancut Hot & Sexy Stud!

Tan W/nice Fit Smooth Body!

Outgoing, real, low new idea's &

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ANY TIME 24 HOURS

SHANE 510-729-7958

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with a hard, defined gymnast's body;

broad shoulders, great chest, popping

biceps, handsome face, 8' hard, sweet

inches offering hot, sensual, intimate

times with mutual respect and no attitude.

\$120hr Jeff * 679-8487 VM

E04

Hot Lean Top 5' 8" 140# 30yo

INTENSE FIST

Small expert hands. Out only

215-8396 <http://come.to/digger>

E04

Hot Lean Top 5' 8" 140# 30yo

303-4MAN

Hot Arab Muscle Man, Hairy W/long

Hair & Beard, 5'6" \$120

No Attitude.

E04

Hot Lean Top 5' 8" 140# 30yo

NAVY SEAL!!!

Smooth, Black, Built To

Perfection. 338-8876 Pgr.

E03

9X7 Thick Fantasy Top Man!

Erik - 24 Hours - 807-7776

E03

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handsome,
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9" cut
165 , 6'
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10X6"UNCUT

Big fat tool 487-1679 PgR678-1005

E03

24yo, Blond/Blue, Lean & Toned
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Sensual, Affectionate Bottomboy
Handsome, Friendly & Clean-Cut
Out \$100/hr Page Dylan 406-8618

E03

BIG HAIRY PECS
Masculine 32yr Stud W/a Furry
Stomach, Full Bush, Hard 8X6 Cut
& Chin Slappin' Low Hangers 6ft
190lbs of Solid Muscle 207-9043

E03

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E08

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22yrs wholesome cute thin fair
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pgr: 415-414-1669 out-call fun

E04

8 1/2"THICK HUSKY STUD
Brn/Hazel 5'10" 195 Great Legs
Hairy Chest 415-245-7296
Steven Out only

E04

Hot Asian. Well-hung, big chest.
Massage S&M B/D J/O WS. Bpr
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E03

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JAPANESE
Body Worship Oral Servicing
Handsome, friendly. Out. 207-6696

E03

Sexy Escort/Masseur Travel OK Out
5'9"175 Med hry 27yo Top/Italian
HOT STRAIGHT STUD!!!

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E03

24YO CUT 9X6

Smooth-6' 130lbs(510)908-3054-SF

E03

ALL MAN

35yo 5'10" 185lbs

Classic good looks, muscular build.

Well Hung. All Scenes. Tom431-2887

E03

Your Butt My Fist. Leo(510) 588-6346

E04

NAVY SEAL!!!

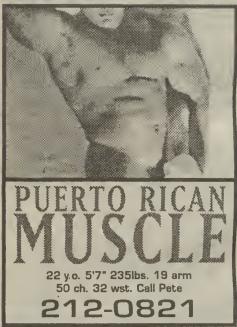
Smooth, Black, Built To

Perfection. 338-8876 Pgr.

E03

PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS



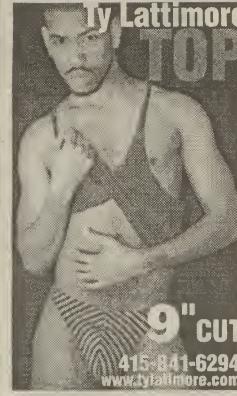
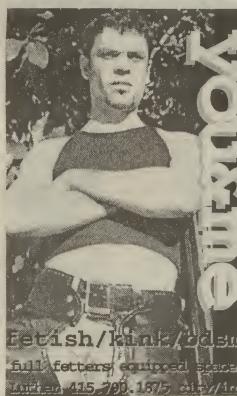
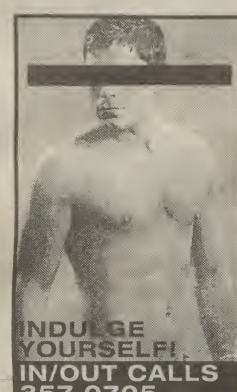
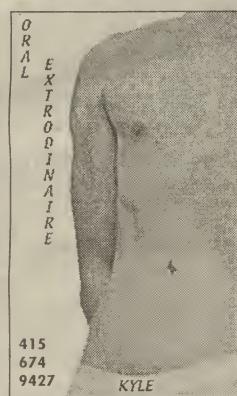
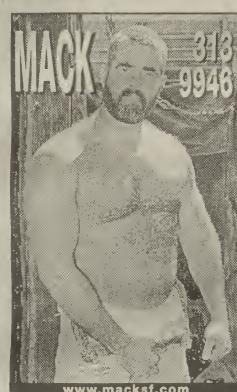
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Muscular 36yo handsome dark hair,
friendly. 5'6" 155# \$120 In/Out

SHAVED BOTTOM
\$60 Chris 925-689-6076

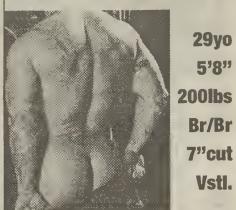
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Kyle(415)376-6396 www.Lovings.com

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THE DUNGEON



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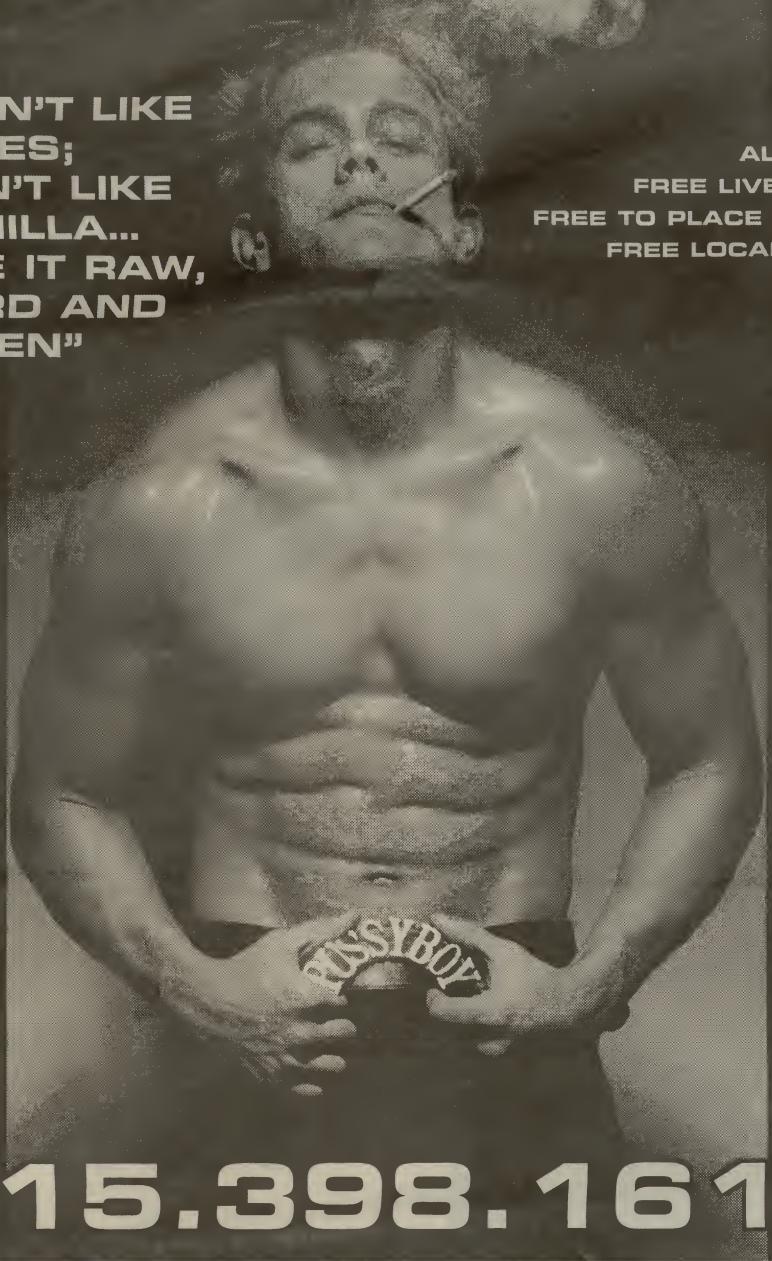
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